Sandigan grants Jinggoy 5 days of freedom

STORY ON PAGE A2

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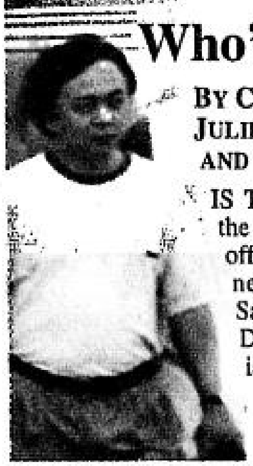


Who's Stef Saño?

BY CARLITO PABLO, JULIET JAVELLANA AND VOLT CONTRERAS

IS THE administration using the people of former Estrada official Robert Aventajado to negotiate with the Abu Sayyaf for the release of the Dos Palmas hostages? And is ransom once again being

WHO'S/ A15

Daughter of Uratex owner kidnapped

BY PHILIP TUBEZA

ARMED men wearing police uniforms yesterday seized the daughter of a Chinese-Filipino businessman, her driver and a bodyguard at the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City.

A UP police official said Mary Grace Rosagas, of No. 2 Cayetano St., Ayala Heights,

DAUGHTER/ A4

Military now presumes Sobero dead

US Embassy wants further confirmation

BY CARLITO PABLO

AMERICAN hostage Guillermo Sobero is now presumed dead, except that his body has yet to be recovered from the jungles of Basilan.

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, spokesperson of the Armed Forces, yesterday told reporters that Sobero died on the night of June 11, after his captors separated him from the rest of the hostages somewhere in central Basilan, his hands tied behind his back.

"We do not know if he was executed or died of infection," Adan said of Sobero, who was apparently afflicted with diabetes.

Adan based his announcement partly on information provided by Filipino hostage Francis Ganzon, who supposedly saw Sobero being tied and led away.

Ganzon, along with two other captives of the Abu Sayyaf, arrived in Manila Saturday.

The military has examined Ganzon's statements, and based on these, "we have very strong reasons to believe that Mr. Guillermo Sobero is dead," Adan said

He added: "We have no proof as to the exact cause of death. The beheading is a statement of Sabaya."

But while the military is presuming Sobero dead, it is not doing the same for Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani, who, according to Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar, died of wounds incurred during a battle with government troops early this month.

Adan said that until Janjalani's body was produced, "we cannot be certain he is dead.'"

"He carries a P5-million price on his head and it might benefit some person if his true whereabouts are not traced," Adan said.

Janjalani's father-in-law, Ustadz

MILITARY/ A15

Abu letter surfaces amid talk of ransom

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

THE ABU Sayyaf has written a letter saying it "unconditionally" released three hostages in order to reopen talks with government mediators on the fate of its remaining captives, Malacañang said yesterday.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said lawyer Francis Ganzon, one of three ex-hostages who walked to freedom over the weekend, hand-delivered the letter, handwritten in English, to President Macapagal-Arroyo on Saturday.

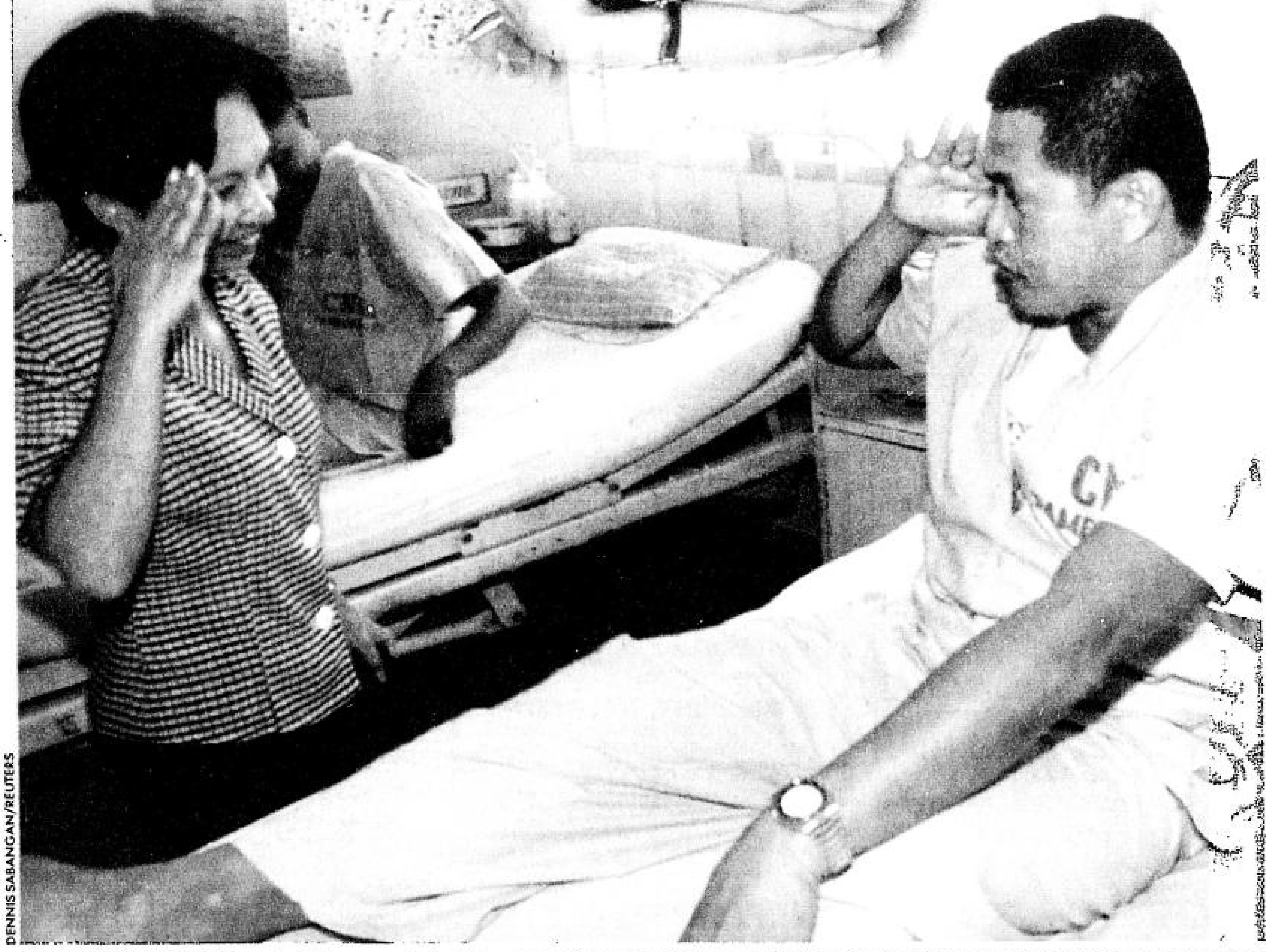
Asked if the Palace was presenting it as proof that no ransom was paid for Ganzon and Kimberly Uy, Tiglao said: "Take it however you want, it said 'unconditionally released.' Ransom would be a condition for release, logically."

According to Tiglao, the letter says "that (the kidnappers) are unconditionally releasing the two hostages as a gesture that they want a reopening of talks."

Malacañang is treating the letter as "authentic," and taking the "offer to resume talks" seriously, because the letter was sent through the freed captives, he said.

The President has instructed ne-

ABU/ A15



DENNIS SABANGAN/REUTERS

COMMANDER IN CHIEF (above) salutes a wounded soldier recuperating at the Southcom military hospital in Zamboanga City. (Top) Rescue my daughter, pleads Tarsila Malonzo, mother of 23-year-old nurse, Reyna, during President Macapagal's visit to the Jose Torres Memorial Hospital in Lamitan, Basilan.

GMA forays into bandits' stronghold

BY ALEXANDER M. YOUNG AND JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Defying the advice of her officials, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday flew to the Abu Sayyaf heartland and announced that the government would not ease up on its pursuit of the bandit group.

She visited Lamitan in Basilan, site of the bandit attack on June 2, to inspect the damage done to the St. Peter's Parish Church and the Dr. Jose Maria Torres Foundation Hospital.

Welcomed by a throng of residents, she distributed scholarship grants, medicines, equipment and financial help amounting to some P50 million.

She hugged a weeping Tarsila Malonzo, mother of a nurse kidnapped from the hospital, and said

GMA/ A15

BREAKING 30 YEARS OF SILENCE

Politburo denounces Sison as mad killer

BY JOVITO SALONGA

(Last of three parts)

(Editor's Note: The following is taken from Chapter 12 of the author's memoir, "A Journey of Struggle and Hope," in which Salonga pins the Plaza Miranda bombing on communist leader Jose Ma. Sison.)

IN EARLY 1971, Jose Ma. Sison began putting together a delegation to China. He chose nine trusted cadres of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), to be led by Politburo member Ibarra Tubianosa.

Journalist Ricardo Malay and his wife Charito were the first members of the delegation to enter China in July 1971. They flew to Hong Kong as tourists, were whisked by Chinese agents to Macau and then across the border into China. Tubianosa and his wife arrived a little later. Within a few weeks, the entire delegation was assembled in Beijing.

A few days after they arrived in Beijing, the Plaza Miranda bombing of the Liberal Party rally occurred. Word of the bombing reached Beijing a week later, with the arrival of the newspapers from Hong Kong, with the "grisly accounts and photographs of the carnage."

A few members of the China delegation "were horrified, because Tubianosa had told a few other members of the delegation about the plan to bomb Plaza Miranda—a few weeks before the attack took place," according to Gregg Jones' account in "The Red Revolution."

At first, members who knew the truth kept private their misgivings about the bombing. The Filipinos had carried with them Politburo orders to get arms and supplies to the beleaguered New People's Army guerrillas.

On Sept. 30, 1971, Sison's personal emissary, Fidel Agcaoili, arrived in Beijing with several shopping lists from the CPP's Central Committee. The leadership asked for several hundred M-16 automatic rifles, ammunition, heavy weapons such as bazookas, mortars and anti-aircraft guns.

The Filipinos and their Chinese hosts were quite amused by the request for anti-aircraft weapons

POLITBURO/ A4

Perez: Too late to file charges against Joma

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN AND DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TOO late.

A senator yesterday suggested that the case of the Plaza Miranda bombing be brought before the Department of Justice, but Justice Secretary Hernando Perez pointed out that the government would be unable to take legal action since the prescribed period of 20 years for murder cases has already elapsed.

In an interview, Perez said the allegations made by former Senate President Jovito Salonga in his memoirs, "A Journey of Struggle and Hope," naming communist leader Jose Ma. Sison as the mastermind of the 1971 bombing, were not enough to warrant a new investigation.

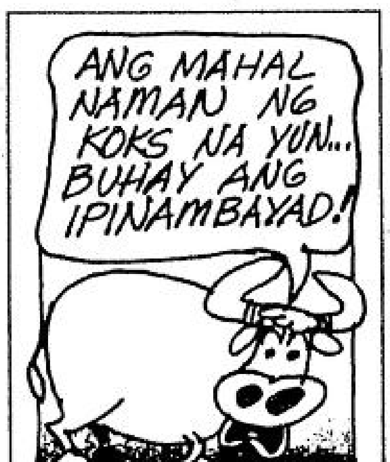
"We cannot file charges despite (former) Senator Salonga's information because of the lapse of 30 years since the incident happened," Perez said.

"The law provides a prescribed period of 20 years for parties to file murder charges against a suspect," he explained. The grenade attack on a Liberal Party proclamation rally took place on Aug. 21, 1971, under the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos.

Sen. Renato Cayetano suggested yesterday that Salonga formally ask the DOJ to investigate Sison.

In his book, Salonga said three sources confirmed to him that Sison ordered subordinates to bomb the rally, allegations which the communist leader and political consult-

PEREZ/ A15


ANG MAHAL NAMAN NG KOKS NA YUN.. BUHAY ANG IPINAMBAYAD!

All because of craving for Coke

BY ALEXANDER YOUNG
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—All because of the hostages' craving for Coca-Cola, eight people were killed and 22 others were wounded in the firefight between the Abu Sayyaf and the military in Lamitan, Basilan, on June 2.

Freed captive Francis Ganzon said the Abu Sayyaf bandits went down to Lamitan from the jungle after the hostages asked Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu

ALL/ A15

5 DAYS LANG... WALANG EXTENSION!

Jinggoy granted 5 days of freedom

By Martin P. Marfil

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday granted outgoing San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada temporary liberty for five days, from June 19 to 23, for him to clear his desk "which he alone can accomplish" at the municipal building.

But the court clarified that Estrada would be subject to security arrangements to be made by the Philippine National Police during the period of temporary freedom.

The justices, moreover, added two conditions: that Estrada's movements be "strictly limited" between his house and the San Juan municipal building and that he be brought back to "his place of confinement" not later than 5 p.m. of June 24.

"In no case shall he be allowed to go to or visit any other place," the court, headed by Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr., said in the two-page resolution issued at 5:30 p.m. yesterday.

Estrada, a co-accused in the plunder case filed by the government against his father, ousted President Joseph Estrada, had filed a motion with the court on June 8 to allow him to clear his desk.

His term as San Juan mayor, which ends on June 30, was suddenly cut short when he was arrested.

His half-brother, JV Estrada, is the incoming San Juan mayor.

Jinggoy is to be allowed to leave the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where he is detained with his father and temporarily stay for five days in his house which is close to the San Juan municipal building.

In a related development, a newly published book by former Senate President Jovito Salonga was used yesterday to bolster the elder Estrada's bid to be placed under house arrest.

Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag, a nephew of Salonga, cited a portion of the book "The Journey of Struggle and Hope" relating the house arrest of Jose Laurel, the president of the Japanese-sponsored government during World War II who was charged with "treasonable collaboration."

In his three-page manifestation, Saguisag, quoting from the Salonga book, said the People's Court (1st division) had granted Laurel the right to be confined in a house for 30 days.

Laurel, however, refused to take advantage of the house arrest order.

Saguisag said that he was citing the book to show that house arrest was within the Philippine experience.

"Even if not availed of, it is therefore not true that what we seek is totally outside our experience or what was authorized in 1946 and during the martial law years and even in the recognizance granted to the scores of detainees arrested last May Day does not exist today," Saguisag said in his manifestation.

Saguisag and other Estrada lawyers are trying to get the Sandiganbayan's 3rd Division to reconsider its June 9 resolution rejecting the jailed leader's petition to be placed under house arrest.

Among the reasons given by the anti-graft court for denying the petition was its view that the historical precedents for house arrest cited by the defense lawyers were incompatible with the Philippine experience.

Zambales land ours, says gov

By Cesar Villa
PDI Central Luzon Desk

IBA, Zambales—Gov. Vicente Magsaysay yesterday denied that he or any of his relatives were engaged in any land-grabbing activities in the province.

He was reacting to an INQUIRER report on his family's alleged attempt to forcibly take a beachfront property in Barangay Lipay-Dingin here on June 12, which threw about 250 tourists into panic.

The governor explained that Jessmag Inc., a family-owned corporation, only wanted to assert authority over lands the family owned and had legitimately acquired.

Magsaysay is one of the owners of and a member of the Jessmag board.

"Those lands were bought by our late father, Jesus Magsaysay, starting in 1924," he said.

"I see nothing wrong in the family asserting its right over these properties before these fall into the hands of squatters and other interested individuals," he said in Filipino.

Covered by titles

Magsaysay told the INQUIRER that all the areas allegedly taken over were covered by land titles.

"How can you grab your own property?" he asked.

He denied reports that the eviction of what he called "squatting residents" from the family's property was not properly done.

He said their caretaker, Ramon Romamban, had informed the residents in the disputed property "months ago" that they would reclaim it.

He said Romamban had told him that the people repeatedly refused to heed their warnings.

But Jerry Calimlim, one of the evicted residents, stood pat on his claim that they were forcibly driven out by the armed men allegedly in Magsaysay's employ.

The armed men, Calimlim said, cut the village road using a bulldozer and sealed off the village with a two-meter-high barbed wire fence.

'They have no pity'

"We asked them to defer the demolition of our house, but they did not heed our pleas. They have no pity," Calimlim said.

Records obtained by the INQUIRER showed land titles T-36687, T-19069, T-13734, T-13107 and T-15106 issued to Jesus Magsaysay in 1972 and covered by corresponding tax declarations and payments.

A statement released by lawyer Estanislao Cesa Jr., counsel for Jessmag, said the "landholdings of Jessmag Inc. at Barangay Lipay Dingin, Iba, Zambales, have a total area of 20 hectares and 6,914 areas fully covered by Torrens titles."

Cesa said the firm had hired private guards to protect its properties that were allegedly "illegally occupied and squatted" on by the complaining beach resort owners.

He denied that Governor Magsaysay was involved in any way in the security operations.

"It was a corporate decision and while (the governor) was one of the board of directors, he has absolutely no participation. Neither did he use the powers of his office in securing the properties," Cesa said.

The residents, comprising about 50 families, and owners of five big resorts in the village were not able to produce any documents to support their claim of ownership, Cesa said.

The residents claim, however, that they have documents attesting that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had granted them occupation rights.

The regional DENR office here said it was still verifying if the competing claimants to the property—the Magsaysay family and the owners of the Sapphire, Villa San Miguel, Rose Ann, VV Goldren and Maligaya beach resorts—had obtained land titles or foreshore lease agreements from the DENR *With reports from Tonette Orejas and Elizabeth Marcelo, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Tourism takes another blow

By Rocky Nazareno

THE TOURISM department yesterday expressed concern over the alleged "gestapo-like" incident at the shoreline of Bgy. Lipay Dingin in Iba, Zambales, on June 10 that prompted panic-stricken tourists in at least five beach resorts to leave.

"We are concerned because how can you explain to the tourists why this had to happen?" said Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab after holding a dialogue with the resort owners yesterday.

Palabyab said the department was just waiting for the resort owners to file a formal complaint against Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay, after which they and the interior department would take proper action.

"I advised them to file a complaint with the Office of the Ombudsman if necessary," he said.

Palabyab said that the country, already suffering from the negative fall-out of the Dos Palmas hostage-taking incident, did not need another blot on its tourism industry.

"Imagine, bulldozers moving in gestapo-like to demolish the walls (of the resorts) in front of tourists?" he said.

About 250 tourists were thrown into panic when armed men escorted a demolition crew and proceeded to tear down the walls of resorts and residences in the beachfront property last June 12.

The group went on to barricade the area but not until after five busloads of tourists had left.

Tension continued to run high in the barangay yesterday as the demolition crew from Jessmag Inc. started tearing down with a bulldozer the Maligaya beach resort.

Cayetano: I have the numbers

By Armand N. Nocum

SEN. Renato Cayetano—who is perceived to be one of the weaker candidates for the Senate presidency—has gotten a doctor to cure his political woes.

In a press briefing, Cayetano said he now has the diminutive but charismatic Sen. Juan Flavier for his "campaign manager." Flavier is a medical doctor by profession.

In his effort to woo the votes of his fellow senators, Cayetano said Flavier's charms might help.

"This is a hundred percent charm offensive," he said, of his tact to get the support of his colleagues.

Contrary to reports that dismiss him as the weakest of the five candidates vying for the top Senate post, Cayetano said he has the support of his partymates in Lakas-NUCD.

"Everyone knows that a number of my colleagues in Lakas-NUCD have endorsed me. In fact, the most senior member of Lakas—Flavier—has endorsed me and I consider him to be my campaign manager," Cayetano told a press briefing at the Senate.

The Lakas members Cayetano was apparently referring to were Senators Robert Barbers, Ramon Revilla, Loren Legarda and Flavier.

But in an earlier interview, Legarda said neophyte Senator-elect Joker Arroyo might have more support than Cayetano.

Legarda said the Senate race would likely be a toss-up among Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Sen. Franklin Drilon and opposition Senator-elect Edgardo Angara.

To this, Cayetano said his colleagues were in for a big surprise.

The Senate race, he said, will be played out according to the numbers.

According to him, his rivals for the post—all of whom claim to have the 13 votes needed to be elected Senate president—may have gotten their arithmetic all wrong.

"At the end of the day, it will be a question of whose arithmetic was correct," he said.

By Cayetano's count, he has the support of 11 Lakas and PPC senators, including himself.

In addition, he said, he also has the backing of the independents—Noli de Castro, John Osmeña, Rodolfo Biazon, Sergio Osmeña III, Robert Jaworski and Pimentel.

Excluding Pimentel, Cayetano's arithmetic would have him getting 16 votes should Drilon and Arroyo opt to support him later.

He said he has talked to all the 16 and is even mulling talking to the seven opposition senators.

Solve internal crisis, Palace asks MNLF

PRESIDENTIAL adviser on the peace process Eduardo Ermita said he hopes the leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front would soon resolve the crisis besetting the organization.

Ermita said that while the government had no business interfering with the MNLF, the immediate resolution of its internal problems would be vital to the effective implementation of the government's development programs in the Muslim areas of Mindanao.

The MNLF, which had entered into a peace agreement with the government, has been faced with a leadership crisis after a 15-man committee replaced chair Nur Misuari.

At the same time, Ermita denied being the source of a statement reportedly attributed to him by the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao media bureau to the effect that "President Macapagal was unfazed by the recent crisis affecting the organization and continues to recognize Misuari as MNLF chair."

Ermita said that while Misuari continues to hold the positions of ARMM governor and special envoy to the Organization of the Islamic Conference, "the legitimacy of his position as MNLF chairman is beyond the pale of the national government or Malacañang."

Recto tightens grip on No. 12

SENATOR-ELECT Ralph Recto appears headed for a huge win in Lanao del Sur based on the latest canvass of the Commission on Elections, but lawyers of the opposition Puwersa ng Masa said he should not be holding a victory party yet as they intend to contest the count.

Recto, who was leading by only 22,826 votes over 13th placer, reelectionist opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan, has widened his lead with the 74,696 votes he got in 32 out of 39 certificates of canvass in Lanao del Sur.

Honasan was able to obtain only 50,643 votes in 31 towns and Marawi City, while 11th placer Sen. Loi Ejercito got 31,700 votes. Ejercito leads Recto by only 69,566 votes in the national tally.

The provincial BOC was actually able to complete the canvass of 36 COCs early last night, but the results from Bubong, Lumbayanague, Lumba-Bayabao, and Mulondo were not immediately made available to media.

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PCGG to appeal Sandigan verdict favoring Danding

By Blanche S. Rivera and Volt Contreras

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government will appeal the Sandiganbayan decision dismissing the government's P12-billion damage suit against the Marcos, Cojuangco and Escaler families.

PCGG officer in charge Jorge Sarmiento said the agency will file a motion for reconsideration today or Wednesday, so the government could re-file Civil Case No. 0033 against food and beverage magnate Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, Ernesto Escaler and the family of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The government is seeking P12 billion in moral damages and P250 million in exemplary damages on top of litigation expenses and actual and nominal damages from the Marcoses and their associates.

The case charged Cojuangco with illegally using the contested coconut levy funds to buy out Pepsi Cola Bottling Phils. in 1985.

'Unprepared'

Cojuangco's lawyers had sought the dismissal of the case after the court, in hearings since last year, repeatedly scored lawyers from the PCGG and the Office of the Solicitor General for coming to hearings "unprepared."

Court records showed the case had been set for pre-trial back in April last year and was reset four times before yesterday's hearing—all at the request of the PCGG lawyers.

The last straw was the state prosecutors' failure to produce "written authorizations" or powers of attorney from their respective agencies as a matter of procedure for the pre-trial. Faulted for this were lawyers Nestor Ballacillo of the OSG and Paul Lentejas of the PCGG.

The case accused Cojuangco and his associate, Ernesto Escaler, of conniving to establish a monopoly in the local soft-drink industry by acquiring the local partner of Pepsi Cola in March 1985 using coco levy funds.

The case was part of the original ill-gotten wealth case filed by the government against the Marcoses, Cojuangco and 57 others in 1987 concerning the diversion of the coco levy funds.

Sarmiento belittled the anti-graft court's dismissal of the case, saying the decision was based on a technicality because the government lawyers could not immediately produce a special power of attorney.

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Daughter of Uratex owner kidnapped

(From page A1)

Q.C., was abducted in front of the UP College of Law around 7:30 p.m. while on her way to work at the Uratex Philippines Inc. factory in Project 7.

The UP police official, who requested anonymity, identified the victim as the daughter of businessman Robert Cheng, Uratex owner and noted golf patron.

The official quoted witnesses as saying a white Mitsubishi Adventure van blocked Rosagas' Mercedes Benz sedan (Plate No. TMP 898) on Osmeña Avenue in front of Malcolm Hall.

At the same time, a blue Toyota Corolla car reportedly pulled over behind the Mercedes Benz.

Three men disguised as policemen and armed with Armalite rifles reportedly jumped out of the van and told Rosagas: "Ma'am, kindly get out of the car."

According to the UP police official, the gunmen handcuffed Rosagas, her driver Dionisio Borca and security aide Val Torres, and forced them into the van.

The official said witnesses thought what happened was "just a routine police operation."

A security guard at Malcolm Hall, however, sensed something was amiss when the Mercedes Benz was left unattended for about three hours.

The guard then reported the incident to the UP police at about 10:30 a.m., the official said.

The INQUIRER called up the Uratex factory but a woman who answered the phone said the company had no information to give out to the media. She refused to give her name.

Officials of the Central Police District also declined to give details about the alleged kidnapping.

At least four Singaporeans had been kidnapped in Metro Manila since April.

The latest victim, Roger Yeo Cheow Meng, was kidnapped on June 1 in Muntinlupa City. He was freed on June 9 after his wife paid the kidnappers a ransom of S$300,000 (P8.4 million).

Alarmed by the spate of kidnappings, President Macapagal-Arroyo said last week she would soon form a "superbody" to coordinate the government's drive against kidnap gangs.

Politburo denounces Sison . . .

(From page A1)

"coming from a tiny guerrilla force trying to stay one step ahead of the Philippine Army."

Although the Chinese could supply 1,200 M-14 rifles, bazookas, mortars, communications equipment and medical kits, they refused as "too risky" Sison's request that a Chinese submarine deliver the arms to the Philippines.

The Filipinos would have to do it themselves.

Rusty boat

Agcaoili led a small team to Japan to buy a boat to transfer arms. Using a dummy corporation for the project, they found a 91-ton, 90-foot-long former fishing trawler named the Kishi Maru. The rusting boat was a "candidate for the salvage yard," but it was cheap, "so they bought it and hired a crew to sail the trawler back to Manila."

CPP leaders in the Philippines decided that the arms project could be used "to funnel badly needed cash into revolutionary coffers." As China was paying for the boat, "the CPP Central Committee reported a purchase price several thousand dollars more than had actually been paid. The Chinese forwarded the amount without questions, but the deception was not appreciated by Tubianosa, who was left with the task of lying to his Chinese hosts."

Crew of activists

A former UP engineering student, Edwin Alcid, and two other Party cadres were sent to China for three months of maritime training in preparation for the arms transfer. A crew of six activists was assembled, and the boat, skippered by Alcid and rechristened the Karagatan, set sail for Fukien province on the southeast coast of China around mid-1972.

Ranking Chinese military officials accompanied Tubianosa to a Fukien port to supervise the loading of the weapons and other material, which were packed in wooden crates. Chinese officials warned that the shipment would be too heavy for the small boat, but Tubianosa, under orders from his superiors in the Philippines, insisted that all the weapons be loaded.

Drama on high seas

The Karagatan set sail near the end of June 1972. Somewhere in the South China Sea, the rickety, old boat developed a hole in the hull. It appeared in danger of sinking, but the crew succeeded in plugging the hole with parts of a rug and pieces of plywood.

Arriving off Digoyo Point in Isabela in the predawn darkness of July 4, the Karagatan searched for but could not find the smaller boat that was supposed to ferry the arms to shore.

When the craft did not appear, "Alcid took the Karagatan closer to the beach, where small *bancas* were used to ferry the cargo ashore. That evening, as the Karagatan turned out to sea, the boat ran aground. Within a few days, government troops had recovered the bulk of the Chinese arms and ammunition."

When Marcos announced to the nation on July 7, 1972 the discovery of Karagatan—as the "first clear evidence of any foreign vessel landing supplies, equipment and perhaps personnel in the Philippines in support of communist subversion"—the press, and much of the public, dismissed it as a Marcos hoax.

Dismayed, angered

The Filipino delegation in Beijing first learned of the Karagatan debacle through an Australian shortwave radio broadcast. In the spring of 1973, a courier from the Philippines finally arrived with a Central Committee report on the Karagatan.

Leaders of the delegation were dismayed and angered by what they read. They had been assured by their superiors, and in turn had assured the Chinese, that the landing site had been thoroughly reconnoitered and been found to be deserted.

In fact, the Digoyo site had been selected by an examination of maps, with negligible reconnaissance. When the advance NPA force arrived at the site a week before the scheduled arms landing, they were surprised to find a busy crossroads for fishermen living along the coast. Plus, the weapons were supposed to have been carried off in relays, but "some of the NPA units did not arrive until a few days after the arms had been unloaded."

Leaders of the CPP delegation, particularly Tubianosa, drafted a critique—the first in a series of contentious communications—blaming the failure on the impatience of Sison and other Party leaders. They criticized the hasty, amateurish arrangements that had been made for receiving the shipment. A majority of the Chinese delegation demanded that Sison take responsibility for the Karagatan failure.

Sison's answer: the delegation should spend less time complaining.

NPA scuba teams

In 1973, Sison had another proposal for an arms shipment on the northwestern coast of Luzon, which was nearer to China.

More ambitious than the Karagatan project, the plan called for a vessel to drop watertight tubes packed with arms off the coast of La Union. NPA scuba teams would retrieve the weapons and ferry them ashore in small fishing boats.

Chinese officials approved the plan. In fact, in December, Chinese military officials invited Tubianosa and his deputy, Ricardo Malay, to Hainan island, where they were shown how the plan should be carried out. M-14 rifles, bazookas and ammunition had been vacuum-packed into dozens of specially made plastic tubes. A Chinese scuba team demonstrated how the weapons would be dropped into the ocean and recovered safe and dry in their protective tubes.

A new boat, a small former passenger liner, renamed the Andrea, would be used for the purpose.

It would again be commanded by Edwin Alcid, despite the delegation's objections to the choice, chiefly due to Alcid's propensity for seasickness.

Shipwrecked

The Andrea set sail for Fukien province in late January 1974, with Alcid at the wheel, supported by a crew of three former student activists and eight peasant guerrillas from Central Luzon.

Before dawn on the second day, "sailing in heavy winds and rough seas off the northwest coast of the Philippines and south of Taiwan, the Andrea ran aground on a mass of coral reefs."

The Andrea crew was picked up later the same day by a salvage ship from Hong Kong, the Oriental Falcon, which deposited the hapless Filipino communists on a wreck that was being cannibalized by the ship.

After two weeks of this tremendous ordeal, the Oriental Falcon returned to Hong Kong, where the Andrea crew was detained by immigration authorities. Five days later, the Filipino rebels were allowed to seek asylum in China.

Quarrel

The failure of the Andrea project, wrote Jones, was a devastating blow to the Filipino communist delegation in Beijing, and the members began quarreling among themselves.

All were agreed that Sison should bear responsibility for the latest failure. Two years of anger, frustration and self-pity were poured out in long letters to their superiors in the Philippines.

In a fit of passion, Tubianosa even revived the taboo subject of Plaza Miranda and denounced Sison as a "mad killer" for ordering the bombing of the Liberal Party rally. The more disillusioned members of the group were sick of what they felt were Sison's romantic, misguided notions about China and Mao.

In March 1975, Tubianosa resigned as head of the delegation, secluded himself in his own room, and refused to eat or speak with the others.

In retaliation for his resignation and his harsh attacks on Sison, the Central Committee ordered that the rebellious Politburo member be placed under supervision (meaning arrest) and he was forbidden to leave China.

Becoming peasants

In late 1975, the bickering Filipinos accepted the advice of the Chinese—adopt a Cultural Revolution remedy for their personal and ideological differences by going to the countryside to join the peasants in manual labor. In 1976, they left Beijing for Hunan province, the birthplace of Mao Zedong, and threw themselves into their new lives as peasants.

But with the death of Mao, the triumph of Deng Xiaoping over the Gang of Four and the collapse of the Cultural Revolution, life became a little more relaxed for the Filipino rebels. In September 1979, they returned to Beijing.

As Deng's liberalization program gained steam, the Philippine delegation became a political liability and a financial drain on the Chinese government.

In 1981, the status of the Philippine delegation was downgraded. Most of the members of the original delegation left for Holland—the emerging source of funds for the revolution—for assignments with the CPP's National Democratic Front office.

It was only after the fall of Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 that Tubianosa and another rebel who dared challenge Sison returned home with their families—15 years after entering China.

Kumander Bilog

Meanwhile, despite the arrest of Commander Dante (Bernabe Buscayno) in 1976 and the capture of Sison in November 1977, the NPA grew even as the repression and corruption of the Marcos regime became more unbearable and scandalous . . .

But the boycott by the extreme Left of the snap election of Feb. 7, 1986, which led to the Edsa revolution, from which Joma Sison and his followers also shied away, weakened the CPP-NPA considerably.

The self-inflicted errors were reported in the Asiaweek cover article of March 9, 1994, titled "Why We Lost the War," based on an interview with Rodolfo Salas, alias Kumander Bilog, who became the NPA chief from 1976-96 and CPP chair from 1977-86.

With particular reference to the Plaza Miranda bombing, Salas described Danny Cordero as an able, fast-rising cadre, who was sentenced by a military tribunal chaired by Central Committee member Ruben Guevara.

Salas said that Cordero's execution was "wrong" and that his offense of speaking out against party policies was "not serious enough to warrant death."

At the end of his trial, Cordero testified that Sison had ordered him to bomb an opposition rally at Plaza Miranda. In the opinion of Salas, Guevara saw Cordero as a threat to his leadership in the northern Luzon NPA.

Guevara was later demoted for "sexual opportunism" and subsequently ousted from the CPP-NPA . . . .

Unwelcome topic

I can understand why the Plaza Miranda bombing remains an unwelcome topic to former CPP activists who now count themselves as "progressives or left of center but not communists."

As one former Party activist quoted by Jones said: "A part of our subconscious simply refuses to admit we were responsible for this."

Another top Communist Party official said, when asked why the Plaza Miranda bombing had so traumatized Party members: "Because we viewed the Liberal Party as our allies—they were against Marcos and we were against Marcos—and because of the treachery involved."

My own view is that, in the absence of a more credible account, the available evidence, based on the testimony of former Central Committee members and Party officials, and the statements of those who participated in the execution of the bombing and the trial of Danny Cordero in Isabela, overwhelmingly points to Jose Ma. Sison as the principal author of the Plaza Miranda tragedy of Aug. 21, 1971.

I have been a critic of Marcos since the beginning of his presidency up to his last day in office . . . . But I think it is neither fair nor right to heap all the blame on Marcos and his military clique for any evil event, such as the Plaza Miranda bombing of 1971, that happened during the Marcos years.

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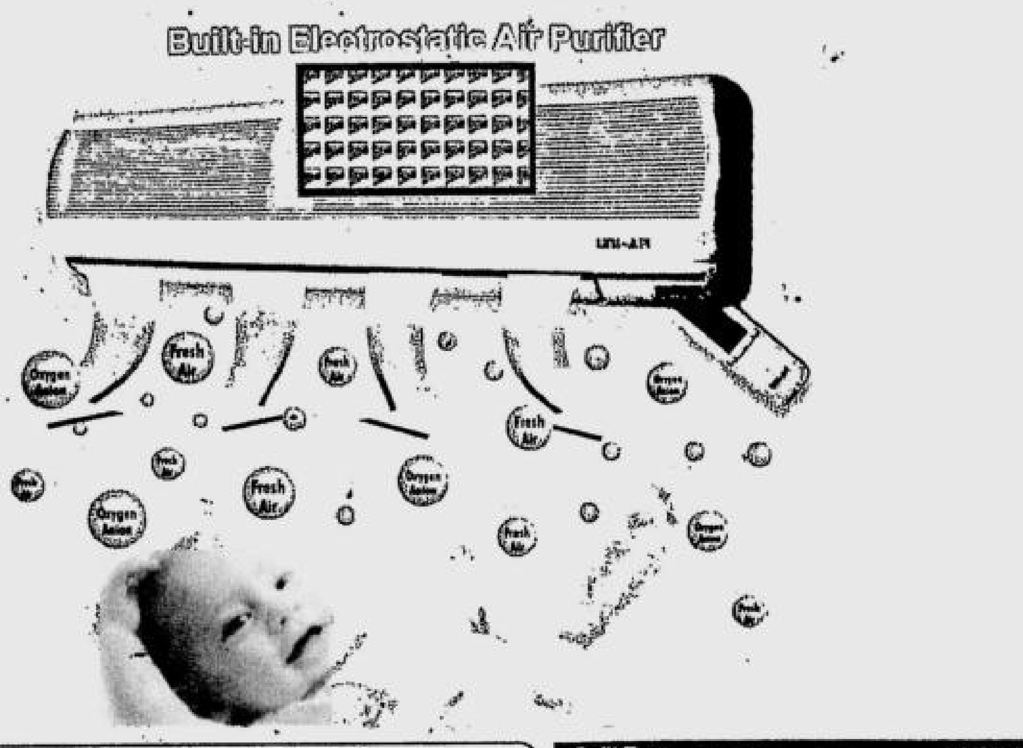

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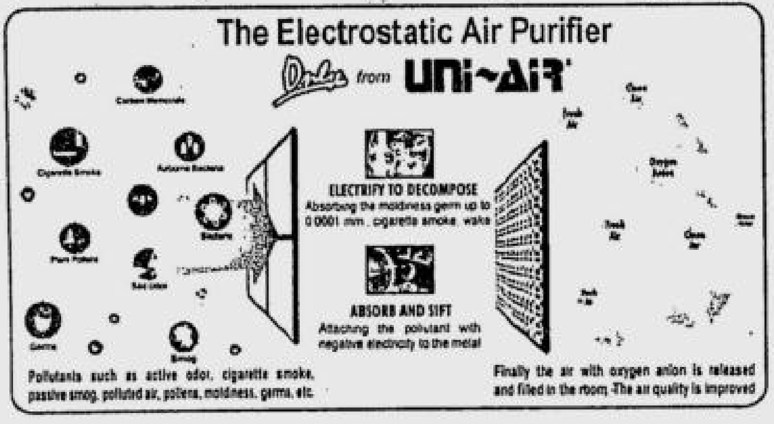
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Angara proposes 'direct amendment'

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NAGA CITY—Senator-elect Edgardo Angara has proposed making changes to the Constitution by "direct amendment" and not through a Constituent Assembly or Constitutional Convention.

Angara said that in "direct amendment," the House and the Senate will consider specific proposals separately, and if there have disagreements, both chambers would meet in conference to thresh them out.

He said that after Congress shall have decided on the amendments to the Constitution, these will be submitted to the people in a national referendum.

Angara said this process of amending the Constitution will save the cash-strapped government huge sums that would otherwise be spent on a Constituent Assembly. It would also free Congress from focusing on only one concern, he added.

Angara said he is for abrogating the constitutional restriction on allowing foreigners to invest in certain key areas of the economy, like telecommunications, transportation and public works.

"There is no reason for us to be so rigid. We could lift this restriction and form a body to oversee the ownership by foreigners in these areas, depending on our need," Angara said.

He said the political provision that needs to be changed in the Constitution is the number of senators, which has to be increased in consideration of the present population of the country.

He said the Senate has become an under-represented body because the number of its senators has been the same since 1941 when the population was under 16 million.

"Certainly, the 24-member Senate is no longer representative of the population which is now at 77 million," said Angara.

He said Senate representation is also unequal because many areas of the country do not have senators from their places.

"Since the Senate was restored in 1987, for example, Samar and Leyte have not elected a senator while Metro Manila has elected an overwhelming number," he said.

He said the unequal representation in the Senate could be made fairer by electing senators by district, which was done in 1916 when the first Senate was organized under the Jones Law.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS' LAMENT

'Roco spoiling public teachers'

By Blanche S. Rivera

EDUCATION Secretary Raul Roco has gone too far in appeasing the perennially complaining public schoolteachers to the point of "hastening the death" of private educational institutions, private school administrators said.

The Federation of Association of Private School Administrators castigated Roco for "spoiling" the public schoolteachers, showering them with benefits, thus prompting the exodus of faculty from the private schools.

While commending Roco's management of the education department, Fapsa president Eleazar Kasilag criticized the DECS chief for being too accommodating of the complaints and problems of public schoolteachers.

"They may pamper the public schoolteachers, but our appeal is, please, don't spoil them," Kasilag said in a phone interview.

"Give them what they need, not what they want, because they will always have problems, and they will always want more," he added.

Roco recently worked out a tax amnesty for public schoolteachers, which exempted them from having to remit their withholding taxes for one-and-a-half months, from May 1 to June 15.

He also got the Government Service Insurance System to buy out P5 billion worth of teachers' loans from 50 private lending and insurance firms, enabling the chronically indebted state teachers to repay their loans at a much lower interest rate.

Roco has vowed that under his administration, the DECS would be known as a "department of teachers."

He has since initiated the loan restructuring program, reversing the department's policy of playing collector for private lending firms and reviewing the records of 187 lending and insurance institutions servicing the country's 500,000 public schoolteachers.

Roco has said he would ask the government to give the same benefits to private schoolteachers.

"That's impossible. I don't think he can do that for us," Kasilag said of Roco's announcement.

"We're not public so there's little that he can do on our behalf. The government would not be too agreeable to giving all those benefits," he added.

Kasilag said the private schools' only appeal to Roco is to allow them to raise their fees as they can no longer compete with the benefits offered by the public schools.

He said at least two schools in Marikina had to close down because they did not have enough funds to continue operating this year.

"Is this really the scenario they want? Is this what the department wants?" Kasilag asked.

"Can the DECS absorb all the students that would go to the public schools if the private schools close down?"

He said that while the DECS is crying for more classrooms, more books and more teachers, private schools need more students to survive.

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Customs reports surpassing target

THE BUREAU of Customs yesterday said it exceeded its collection target for the five-month period ending May by some P237 million.

Quoting a Bureau of Treasury report, Customs Commissioner Titus B. Villanueva said in a press statement that despite the difficulties besetting the country, the agency was able to collect some P38.2 billion as against target of P37.9 billion from January to May.

The report, he said, also indicates that the latest collection performance of the Bureau of Customs exceeded last year's collection for the same five-month period by some P2 billion.

Villanueva attributed the increase to the "determined collection of bank accounts by customs authorities, speedy processing of seized smuggled shipments, intensified anti-smuggling operation and the full utilization of the BoCs computers which make for an efficient collection system."

Doubts have been raised on the bureau's ability to meet its collection targets considering the problems that the government recently had to deal with, including the siege of Malacañang by Estrada supporters and the hostage crisis in Basilan.

Villanueva said that despite the odds, he was optimistic that the Customs bureau will not only attain but also surpass the collection goal set by the government for this year.

He said his agency "will continue to double its efforts to collect the revenue that the government badly needs."

He said innovations and proper procedures have been instituted in his agency to establish a favorable business climate and for efficient revenue collection.

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OPINION

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A record of torture

EDITORIAL

REP. Rodolfo Aguinaldo of Cagayan has been buried but the debate over whether he was a hero or a heel continues.

The NPA, which claimed credit for his assassination, said he deserved to die for his "blood debts" to the people. His crimes, the NPA said, included summary executions of suspected rebel leaders and activists, torture and other physical abuses, the rape of wives and women relatives of suspected rebels, disappearances, forcible evacuation of people from suspected rebel sanctuaries and mass arrests.

For his part, Cagayan Provincial Administrator Jeremias Garan expressed the sentiment of many Cagayanos when he said that Aguinaldo was a hero who helped and protected the people that he served, "especially the poor."

What is the truth? Was Aguinaldo a hero or heel? The question has not been answered conclusively because "revolutionary justice" was meted out to him by the NPA without going through the normal processes of the country's justice system. Not a few people, including those who sympathize with the NPA cause, have condemned Aguinaldo's summary execution without a proper trial.

Some, like the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, viewed Aguinaldo's slaying as a commentary on the failure of the justice system. Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, CBCP president, said the Aquino and Ramos administrations never seriously pursued charges against military officers accused of human rights violations, leading people to hope that the NPA would mete out the punishment that the justice system failed to impose.

The thousands of victims and relatives of victims of human rights violators during the Marcos martial law regime are still hoping for justice to be done. The human rights violators are known, and the charges against them are well documented by Amnesty International, Task Force Detainees, Selda, the Philippine Medical Action Group, by a court in Hawaii and by authors and researchers like Alfred W. McCoy ("Closer Than Brothers") and Dr. June C. Pagaduan Lopez ("The History of the Study of Psycho-Social Trauma").

Aguinaldo was in good (bad?) company. The other names that stand out in books, reports and other publications about human rights violations are those of Rolando Abadilla, Panfilo Lacson, Billy Bibit, Victor Batac, Robert Ortega, Hernani Figueroa and Gregorio (Gringo) Honasan. Most of them were members of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement which, according to McCoy, had "a vision of violence."

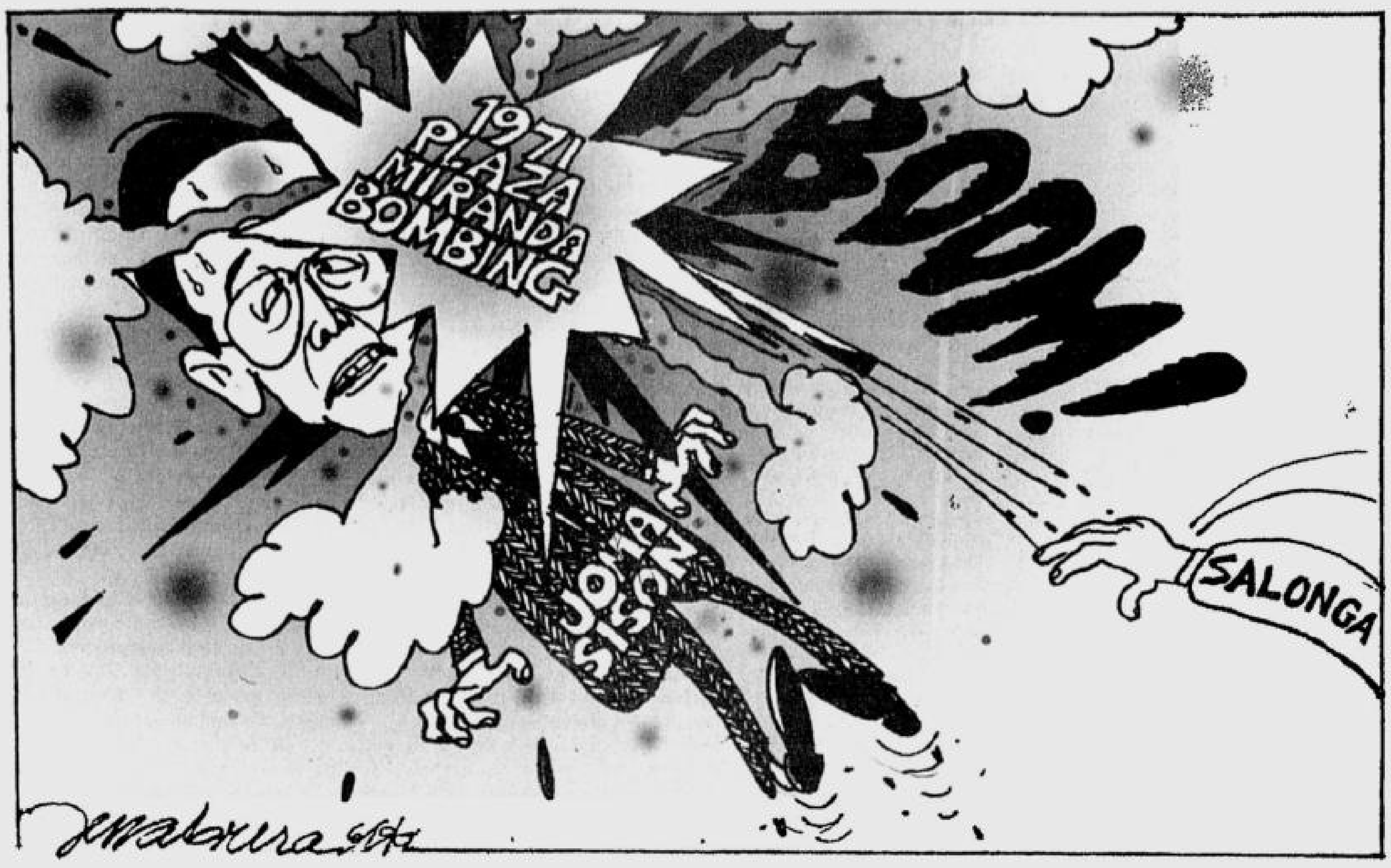
These officers—members of PMA Classes 1965 to 1972—were actors in the "theater of torture" during the martial law regime. McCoy said in a paper ("Dark Legacy: Human Rights under the Marcos Regime") read at the Conference on Memory, Truth-Telling and the Pursuit of Justice in 1999 that "group torture built lasting bonds that sustained these officers in their rise to power."

McCoy said that a review of human rights under the Marcos regime rated Aguinaldo as its "top torturer," finding him "implicated in the torture of at least 27 detainees." A 1980 report of Task Force Detainees described Aguinaldo as "a persistent and systematic torturer" whose "legendary maniacal torture sessions…left many detainees permanently injured."

One chapter of McCoy's book, titled "Torture," details some of the methods used by Aguinaldo and company: "prolonged beating with fists, kicks and karate blows, the pounding of heads against walls, the burning of genitals and pubic hair with the flame of a cigarette lighter, electric treatment, water cure, strangulation, Russian roulette, forcing victims to eat human feces and the seduction of the wives and sisters of political detainees," among other acts.

None of the officers named has been called to account and punished for the "salvagings," tortures and disappearances of political detainees. McCoy says that among the nations that emerged from authoritarian rule, the Philippines provides an example of "extreme impunity." The Philippines has done very little—almost none at all—to punish the killers and torturers and to purge the nation of their influence. On the contrary, yesterday's murderers and torturers are today's high government, military and police officials.

It is understandable why people would hail the "revolutionary justice" meted out by the NPA to Aguinaldo, although, as we've always stated, we believe the punishment should be carried out only after due process has been observed. The Aquino and Ramos administrations were not able to initiate an inquiry into the martial law "salvagings" and tortures. Can President Macapagal do it, now that she's in the middle of a balancing act with the military and the police? When will the nation ever put a closure to the cases of "salvagings" and torture of the Marcos martial law regime?



SSS double-talk on its investments and borrowings

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

NOT "privatization" but "outsourcing." This is the hair-splitting being done by the management of the Social Security System on the plan to hand over to private companies at least some of the functions of the multi-billion pension fund.

The SSS cannot be privatized because it is already privately owned. Every centavo of the assets of the SSS is owned by its 23-million members. The government does not own a single centavo of it. Its only participation is in the form of the President's appointment of the seven members of the Social Security Commission.

To repeat, the SSS cannot be "privatized" although the term originally came from its chair, Vitaliano Nañagas II, and seconded by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who said that the "privatization" will be done in 2004. Coincidentally 2004 is the year of the presidential elections when candidates and political parties will need plenty of campaign funds. But the SSS will not be "privatized" but will be "outsourced."

We invited Nañagas and executive vice president Horacio Templo to the Kapihan sa Manila yesterday to explain the play on words, but they sent vice president Joel Palacios instead. The two top SSS officials have become TNTs (*tago ng tago*) since the controversy erupted. Palacios made a gallant explanation and defense of the plan, while one of the original founders and commission members explained what the SSS was originally about.

But what does "outsourcing" mean? It means giving to an outside source (a private company) some of the functions of the SSS such as investments, the management of its P42-billion housing portfolio, the production of SSS IDs and the functions of the IT group. In short, it means "privatizing" the most important and sensitive functions of the SSS.

It is like having a management contract with a private company, similar to Anscor, for example, managing San Miguel Corp. and its affiliates, for which Anscor gets a percentage of the gross (not net) income of SMC et al. Even if SMC incurs a net loss, Anscor makes money, a lot of it, because its percentage comes from the gross, before expenses. Similarly, even if the SSS incurs a net loss and the members' benefits decline, the private companies hired to run some of its functions will make money.

To banish the opposition from SSS employees who fear the loss of their jobs, Nañagas said no employee would be "replaced or displaced." Which means adding to the workforce and expenses of the SSS, because the SSS will have additional sets of workers that comprise the officials and employees of the private companies. That means the funds left over after expenses, which should go to members as benefits, will be less.

And giving the SSS investment functions to a private firm is full of danger. Being private employees, they are not accountable to the government or the public. They are not liable under the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and the Code of Conduct for Public Officials. They cannot be charged with plunder for large-scale graft. They can be reckless in investing SSS funds and they will not be answerable for it. They can invest the funds in risky and speculative ventures of their friends and when the ventures fail and the SSS members lose their money, they can dismiss it by saying, "Investing is a risky business." And then they and their friends will run laughing all the way to the bank.

SSS management even plans to hire a foreign investment expert, who will most certainly be paid in dollars plus perks such as free housing at Forbes Park, a Mercedes Benz car, travel expenses and unlimited signing privileges in five-star hotels. All those expenses mean less benefits for SSS members.

Besides, is the SSS management admitting that it can't do the job so that they have to get outside help? Are they saying that there are no Filipinos who are good enough? Are we colonially minded even in this field?

A word about SSS losses and borrowing. The SSS had to borrow P7 billion because of liquidity problems (it did not have enough cash to pay members' benefits). Templo denied that the SSS suffered any "losses" and said that borrowing "is a typical corporate activity." On the contrary, he added, the SSS earned a net profit of P260.9 million out of its borrowings.

Instead of selling its government securities, he said, the SSS held on to them and borrowed using them as security. It received a total income of P1.605 billion from these securities and paid only P1.342 billion in interest, thus netting a P260.9 million profit.

This is only half of the picture; Templo is engaging in double talk. In the first place, this is the first time in its entire history that the SSS ran out of cash. The SSS wouldn't have to hock its government securities to borrow, and thus earn much more, if it didn't run out of cash. And it ran out of cash because of bad investments, such as in Belle Resources which, any fool could see, was a risky venture.

The SSS couldn't sell or hook its Belle shares of stocks because their price had dropped, so it had to hock its government securities. Since the price is down, it effectively lost money on these investments. Moreover, it is not earning any dividends from these shares, so it is losing more. Even when Belle shares go back up (which is unlikely) the SSS would have lost the earnings it could have earned if those Belle investments were put some place else.

This is a big sin of the SSS vice presidents in charge of investments who justified the controversial investments in Belle. Instead of being punished, however, they were rewarded with "merit increases" (what merit?) so that they now collect between P150,000 and P300,000 each in monthly salaries.

Taxing patience

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I DID say a couple of weeks ago that we did not lack for ways to educate the public. The trick there, however, is not to look for grand syllabuses, or "grand narratives," as post-modernists like to say, but to look for the small things that really signify big things.

One such thing is taxes. The BIR does not lack for "tax education" campaigns, which it periodically mounts particularly when there's a new president or new set of leaders around. The campaigns tell the people about the vital need to pay taxes to keep the country going. They explain that it's taxes that keep government afloat, the same government that provides vital services to the people. The campaigns then go on to show where taxes go—roads, bridges and artesian wells—naturally without mentioning how much gets lost in corruption. At the end come warnings, sometimes subtle, sometimes shrill, about what happens to people who do not pay their taxes.

This isn't a bad idea, though at the very least it seems to miss its target. The real target of campaigns like this really ought to be the owners or executives of big companies and not the poor slobs who get their taxes deducted at source, or from their paychecks. More to the point, their real target really ought to be people like Lucio Tan who are the biggest tax evaders in this country. But I don't know if people like Tan are particularly bothered by campaigns like this. They do not lack for legal shysters and media hacks to proclaim their innocence to the world. Infinitely cheaper paying legal shysters and media hacks than paying taxes, even if their appetites are not so easily appeased.

But more importantly, these campaigns lack real value in that they concentrate only on improving collections. They are really only meant to do one thing, which is to encourage people to pay their taxes. All the rest is sound bites. Or to put it another way, all they do is draw attention to the flow of money from the taxpayers to government. They do not draw attention, or draw too little of it, to the flow of it from government to the taxpayers.

That is a crucial point. I've always said that we do not have a sense of "taxpayers' money" in this country. That is what the "taxpayers education" campaigns do not address, with their focus only on improving collections. Our lack of sense of taxpayers' money is evident in signs that proclaim a waiting shed or bridge or the repair of a road to be "a project of Mayor So-and-So" or "Congressman This and That." Everyone passes signs like that every day and thinks nothing about them. Yet what are they saying but that the waiting shed, the bridge and the repair of a road have been done not as a matter of giving taxpayers their due, but out of the goodness of the mayor's and congressman's heart?

Which is in fact how most of us think of taxes. They are not sums that we give, or better still loan out, to government on the expectation of getting them back in waiting sheds, bridges and the repair of roads. They are *balato* that we give to government officials simply because they are government officials, the *balato* being forced on us when the taxes are deducted at source. Few of us ever seriously think of getting back the money we give away in taxes—giving away being exactly how we feel about it. Taxes are lost money, and we are left only to curse government for insisting on the sum being a little too large. For most of us, taxes are **tribute** that we pay the government. The government gives some of them back in the form of waiting sheds and roads and bridges, if we are lucky. We do not expect, or deserve, these things. That we get them we truly owe to the goodness of a mayor's or congressman's heart.

Our concept of taxes in fact is not unlike that of the peasants of Robin Hood's time, the ones who paid them to the Sheriff of Nottingham. Which is also why Robin Hoods, or people passing themselves off as Robin Hoods, continue to capture, or waylay, our imagination—but that is another story. That by itself goes a long way toward explaining the epic corruption that assails us to this day. Official pillage cannot be stopped by dire threats alone. It requires national outrage to do it. But there's the rub.

In America, the slightest whiff of scandal surrounding the misuse of taxes becomes a millstone around the neck of a public official. Here, the most spectacular display of thievery—the Estrada administration gave whole new dimensions to spectacular—gets to be shrugged off as par for the course. It's not the public's business, it's the business of the people who are fighting for a share of the *balato* or tribute. The public officials who wreak the pillage get to be frowned upon in public, and routinely reviled by media. But they get to be admired in private, and routinely sought out, if not solicited, by media.

The kind of "tax education" I'd like to see—which we are perfectly capable of carrying out—is one that draws attention to these things. One that shifts emphasis from getting the public to pay their taxes dutifully to getting public officials to spend taxes dutifully. Indeed, more than that, one that drums into the public mind the fundamental rights of taxpayers, one that makes of taxes a demand by the taxpayers on government, one that makes taxes a natural claim to waiting sheds, roads and bridges by taxpayers. That is what makes Americans and other nationalities howl their heads off each time a public official steals money from the coffers. That is what makes for national outrage each time a government official uses luxury cars, builds houses for their mistresses, or even, as in the case of Richard Nixon, charges the vacuuming of the carpet in one's home to the government. That is what "taxpayers' money" means. It's not their money, it's ours. We have a right to see that money spent for us. We have every reason to get mad when it's not.

It's not just death and taxes that are inevitable in a country like the United States. Health care and old-age pensions also are. It's time we made them so, too.

TV comedian propositioned for a 'retainer'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IN YESTERDAY'S column, I wrote about Comelec people approaching some party-list candidates for seats in the House for a fee of P5 million each, with P500,000 as downpayment. I also wrote that one observer saw some senators' staffers conducting bids with Comelec personnel openly in a Marawi City hotel.

The offer of posts apparently went down the line. In Quezon City, popular TV comedian Arnel Ignacio, who ran for councilor, was asked by Comelec people for a "retainer," so that his name would not disappear during the canvassing. (Arnel apparently didn't bite, and so he lost.)

The last elections were doubtless the dirtiest in terms of posts bought from Comelec people who brazenly peddled them. There was post buying in past elections, but it went overboard in this recent exercise. When Congress opens at the end of July let us hope some enterprising legislator will call for a thorough investigation of the shenanigans of Comelec people. The problem, of course, is that it would expose those who bought the posts.

* * *

Who will be the next Senate president? Will it still be Nene Pimentel, Rene Cayetano, Franklin Drilon or Joker Arroyo? Actually nobody knows for sure as the situation remains quite fluid and highly dependent on the deals being offered. Every senator vote is asking, what's in it for me? For instance, rumors have it that Sen. John Osmeña has aligned with Pimentel because he had been promised that he would keep the chairmanship of the powerful finance committee. This seems to have alienated Serge Osmeña who is said to have abandoned his fellow PDP-Laban colleague for Drilon.

* * *

To bag the top Senate post, one needs only a simple majority of 13 votes. The important thing is to be able to form a critical mass of, say, eight senators, and then it is easy to coalesce with another group. But in a chamber of 24 senators, a critical mass starts with a bloc of two or three people. At least two senators striking an alliance become a force to reckon with; and depending on how badly the contender needs their votes, they could get some really juicy committees. By his lonesome, a senator doesn't have much leverage.

There is at least one bloc of neophyte People Power Coalition senators who are sticking together: Manny Villar, Joker Arroyo, Ralph Recto and Kiko Pangilinan. Anyone interested in the top post must reckon with this bloc, and other senators would want to join it. Ed Angara can easily muster a bloc of four with LDP colleagues Blas Ople, Tessie Oreta and Rodolfo Biazon, but the problem is whether this bloc could get any votes from the PPC to reach the Magic13.

* * *

Last Saturday evening, four drug-crazed men broke into the vacation house of Alex and Adelia Calayag in a quiet Tagaytay subdivision and shot the 50-year-old businessman twice, killing him instantly. They also stabbed Adelia, 49, eight times and she remains in very critical condition. This episode reminds us of the alarming rise of criminality.

The victims are the parents of an only child, Karen Calayag, a contemporary and good friend of my sons at the Ateneo. This girl works in a hospital in Sydney and in fact my son visited with her on a recent trip there. She had to come home fast to attend to her parents, but unfortunately her passport had expired. Last Sunday evening, I called up Vice President and Foreign Secretary Tito Guingona to ask for his help in getting the Philippine consulate in Sydney to speedily renew Karen's passport. Touched by her plight, Guingona himself called up the surprised Filipino consul in Sydney that same evening to expedite the processing of the passport. Needless to say, that personal gesture helped lighten Karen's burden. Many thanks, Vice President Guingona.

* * *

Last Sunday afternoon, former Senate President Jovito Salonga's memoir, titled "A Journey of Struggle & Hope," was finally launched at the Valle Verde Country Club, four months delayed. The launch of the memoir, which Salonga began writing in 1992, was attended by an impressive array of personalities, a testimony to the stature of the author. It's a thick handsome book costing P600 at leading bookstores, with a painting of tranquil waters, a small mountain and hills along the shoreline at dawn by seascape artist Jeanne Tan on the cover. Jose V. Abueva, who had recommended it for the cover, told me later that Salonga might have thought it was a shoreline in Bohol "because I (Abueva) come from Bohol." Actually it was a Palawan shoreline, a fitting reminder of our (Abu Sayyaf) times as much as a symbol for Salonga of "our own mountains and hills to climb in our pilgrimage on earth."

* * *

The launch six days before Salonga's 81st birthday on June 22 triggered an afternoon of personal and political reminiscences from various speakers. Former President Cory Aquino, the guest speaker, recalled how she learned so much from her imprisoned husband Ninoy's 12 distinguished lawyers, among them Salonga, Senators Lorenzo Tañada and Jose Diokno, about how to handle his trial and imprisonment. Little did she realize, said Cory, that those sessions with Ninoy's lawyers, during which they would argue back and forth on points about his case, were actually "tutorials" for her on the law. Cory then disclosed that Joker Arroyo had just passed her a note saying she was outnumbered by lawyers at the head table. Cory quipped that while she did not become a lawyer (she dropped out of law school after her first year in order to marry the man "I had fallen in love with"), she did one better, by becoming president and acquiring perhaps more honorary degrees than most lawyers.

* * *

Salonga's memoir covers the productive career of a legal luminary, three-time senatorial topnotcher and elder statesman, but Joker Arroyo put it aptly when he said in his remarks that Ka Jovy did not just give us a memoir, he gave us "a history book for the ages." He added that the launch couldn't have been timelier for the country, for indeed, "when everybody seems to have taken a sabbatical from historical seriousness, the stakes are high because, as they say, history is to the nation as memory is to the individual."

I especially liked the part of Salonga's speech where he quoted Frank Laubach, an American who had spent the best years of his life in the early 1930s serving the people of Mindanao before heading for India at the request of Mahatma Ghandi. Laubach wrote a piece, titled "Life begins at 80," wherein he lauded the virtues of that age and the things one could get away with. I will reprint that part on Thursday.

More travel tales

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT'S been a week since I got back from the United States, and I'd like to thank all those who did me the honor of at least missing my presence. ("I'm glad to see you back with your column, if you don't mind, may I ask where you've been?" wrote one reader.)

Well, the *balikbayan* boxes have been unpacked, and all the goodies, including our dirty clothes, have lost that distinctive scent that all "made (or bought) in USA" items carry. I'm getting over my jet lag, and my appointment calendar is filling up with entries.

There's still some "baggage" left over, though, and if you don't mind, let me unburden myself of more stories from our cross-country sojourn through the land of Price Clubs and outlet malls.

* * *

APART FROM MY niece's wedding (see last Sunday's column), another family event that demanded our presence was the "commitment ceremony" and blessing of the partnership of my brother Manny and his wife Fe.

We had gone to great lengths to once more lend the simple rites a "Filipino" touch, from the *capiz* giveaways to our Filipiniana wear and even the dinner menu. But we didn't reckon with the way the event drew to a close in a distinctly American fashion.

The rites and reception were held in the clubhouse and under the terms of the agreement, the party would have to vacate the premises—cleared of furniture and debris, swept and vacuumed—by midnight.

So it was that in our finery, family members and guests began the task of clearing tables, hauling out garbage bags, dismantling furniture and vacuuming the carpeted floors. It was incredible how an event that had begun with such solemnity drew to a close amid the whine of vacuum cleaners and the clanging of dirty plates and glasses. But how typical of do-it-yourself life in America, I thought. How egalitarian. How democratic!

* * *

ON THE WEST Coast, our party of four from the Philippines had to split up. With my friend Emma Coinco and her grandniece Kat, my daughter Miya and brother Bo ventured to Las Vegas, where they were graciously hosted by our friends Bebot and Eugene Yen. Father Boboy and I, meanwhile, made our way to San Francisco to visit our maternal uncle Tio Badong Braganza, his son Buddy, Buddy's wife Mila and their kids Tina and Ralph. I was also looking forward to meeting up with my friend Maloy, her husband Vic and precocious toddler Vince. There was no avoiding as well the Evangelistas of Daly City, especially our beloved "Nanay."

Trouble was, no one was available to drive us from Los Angeles to San Francisco so my sister Neneng booked us on the Amtrak Starlite Express that promised a scenic route through most of the 10-hour ride.

As the train got underway, we realized that it wasn't such a bad way to travel, after all. The seats reclined almost all the way, and if we wanted to, we could walk around the train and even settle for a few minutes in the "sightseeing" car, which was surrounded on almost all sides by glass.

If our budget allowed, we could also enjoy lunch and dinner in the dining car, but since by then our dollar supply had dwindled drastically, we settled for sandwiches and instant meals from the café below the sightseeing deck. The glass-walled car not only allowed for unimpeded views, but casual conversations with other passengers as well. My brother and I spent the better part of an hour conversing with a Filipino businessman who was also visiting with family, specifically for his favorite grandchild's birthday.

If your schedule allows, taking the train can make for relaxed, comfortable, stress-free travel. Barring delays which are quite common, I hear. (On our way back to L.A., we got delayed by more than two hours.) Fortunately, we came prepared for the extended trip, filling our bags with books, magazines, crossword collections and gizmos. If anyone spotted a Palm V left behind on the Amtrak train from San Francisco, though, please tell me so that a certain absent-minded priest will stop pining for it.

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FAMILY buttressed both ends of our visit on both coasts of the USA. After the wedding in Cape May, some 15 of us cousins and family descended on my cousin Dr. Butch Braganza and his wife Rose in Paramus, New Jersey. Between bouts of mahjong and visits to Manhattan, we spent most evenings gathered round the dining table exchanging childhood recollections and family gossip. The silence was most painful to bear after we departed, Butch and Rose complained afterwards.

In L.A. after we visited with our paternal aunt Tita Dida Jimenez, her children—Linda, Bettina, Ed, Bob and his wife Len—hastily arranged a "cherry-picking" outing in the Antelope Valley on the outskirts of the city. There we were joined by more cousins: Florie, Eileen and Eileen's family. "Watch out for snakes!" the "locals" warned us visitors, but soon after we got over our morbid fear of creatures lurking in the dry grass, we got caught up in the magic of those moments under the hot sun. We ate all the cherries we could, which was free, but paid $1.25 for every pound we took home. I tell you, cherries never taste as good as when you risk life and limb for them!

Another cousin, Mavi Braganza, took a whole day off from work to drive us around L.A., enduring her nth visit to Universal Studios then driving us all the way to Marina del Rey for dinner. But our long day wasn't over yet, as Miya had to see Beverly Hills and Hollywood Boulevard with her own eyes. Thus it was that we went riding through the streets of L.A. at two in the morning, visitors in a land that still felt like home, thanks to friends and family.

Readers react

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

I DON'T know about you guys, but I had a pleasant surprise last June 12 when I read in the papers that we were celebrating our 103rd Independence Day. It was news to me. Don't bother to ask where the four decades of American colonial rule went or what happened to the Japanese Occupation. These two periods of our history probably went in the same direction as Kalantiao (my favorite rajah), Maragtas and Princess Urduja.

My elders and betters who have since gone to their heavenly reward used to patiently explain to me that the Philippines was a young country and that I should not expect too much from it. So there were many faults that could be overlooked. But since it has been decided by those wiser and smarter than you and I that we have been independent for more than 100 years, I will have to come up with another excuse for the present deplorable state of the nation. At this point, there's no blaming the Americans because by the looks of it they were never here. Neither were the Japanese. Pretty soon they're going to tell us we didn't go through a war and there was no such thing as the Battle of Manila. Well, no wonder we don't have memorials to the guerrillas; they didn't exist either.

Sorry to have gone into that subject, I just couldn't resist it. My intention really was to bring you comments, complaints and observations of readers but the evil side of my nature won. Besides you don't want someone agreeing with the establishment all the time, do you? Too dull.

In the meantime, let me return to my original theme.

Reader Francisco Marcelo last March wrote about an error committed by City Hall "in placing the name 'Ramon' on the new street sign of R. Hidalgo Street in Quiapo." I replied to Marcelo stating that the "R" in R. Hidalgo stood for "Resurreccion" (the painter's complete name being Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo). Marcelo called the Office of the Mayor twice, "but I was told that the matter was already coursed through the appropriate office: However, until recently I observed that the error remains."

Calling my friend, Engineer Recato. Could you please do something to correct this?

That wasn't the last of Marcelo's woes. He also wrote "about the name of highway from Balintawak up to Pampanga. It is named, as seen in many street signs, McArthur Highway (*notice the spelling*). If that highway is named after the famous American general, then the spelling should be MacArthur. Please help call the attention of many local government officials who should effect the proper correction."

I'm calling, I'm calling, but there's no guarantee they're listening or even remotely interested.

Then there's Teresita Ang-See who's even more upset. This is because President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in a speech before the Tsinoy's at the PICC last June 8, stated "there should be a monument built for the only pure-blooded Chinese general in the Philippine Revolution, Gen. Jose Ignacio Paua. She also said that there should be a Chinese translation of the 'Noli' and that Mandarin should be offered as an optional course in Philippine colleges."

This time, I am calling Vicky Garchitorena at the Presidential Management Staff. It appears that way back in 1989, with money donated by the Tsinoy community, Ang-See's Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran Foundation "built a life-sized monument (by sculptor Jose Caedo for whom Ang-See is batting as National Artist) in honor of the general. The monument was inaugurated on June 12, 1989 at the junction of Imus and Silang in Cavite where Paua helped build an arsenal to manufacture firearms for the revolutionary army, and where he led a few of the successful skirmishes against the Spanish army." A bust of General Paua was also unveiled at the Aguinaldo Shrine on the same day.

To make matters worse, there's another life-sized statue of General Paua in Legaspi City where the general led other successful battles against Spain and the United States inaugurated on Aug. 29, 1997 on Paua's 103rd birth anniversary. Paua eventually retired in Bicol and was elected mayor of Manito, Albay, when *dagdagbawas* wasn't in style yet.

The Kaisa Foundation has been very busy indeed. Aside from the two monuments, it has also installed a historical marker at Camp Pantaleon Garcia marking the site of the Cavite Arsenal and a street in Imus, Cavite, was called Gen. Jose Ignacio Paua in 1999.

For everyone's information, the Mandarin version of the "Noli" was published in 1958 and of the "Fili" in 1960. Most colleges are offering Chinese as an elective foreign language already.

In case you're wondering why there's no monument to Paua in Binondo, it's because despite the best efforts of Kaisa and the National Historical Institute to find a suitable site, there's none because we are not in the habit of leaving any empty spaces. (For instance, Mehan Garden, which those Americans who weren't here created as an open space, will soon be overwhelmed by Atienza's cement.) Plaza Cervantes or the Binondo Plaza would do but, "there's an NHI rule that doesn't allow two people honored in the same plaza or within a few meters of another. Jaboneros would have been ideal because it is where Paua learned the blacksmith's trade and the skill to build an arsenal for ammunition and weapons in Imus, Cavite."

Ang-See suggests that in case any research is needed on Tsinoys, Kaisa be consulted. If she's not around, there's Joaquin Sy and other researchers or one can read the foundation's publication, Tulay. There's no need to consult anyone about any of those American high commissioners, governors and the like because they didn't happen.

Nerd

YOUNGBLOOD

Marie Anne I. Fajardo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I AM not a nerd. No two ways about it. I have no idea what on earth Schrödinger's equation is (until I looked it up) and neither is proving mathematical theorems a la Will Hunting my No. 1 preoccupation. The truth is, I never even wanted to touch a piece of chalk—but that's another story.

For starters, I am not a "Star Trek" fan. But I know that there is more than one version of the original series, "New Generation," and who knows why they called it "Deep Space Nine." I didn't beg my parents to buy me light sabers and never in my dreams did I get the urge to wear rubber ears in public a la Mr. Spock. But I have a propensity to blurt out answers aloud while watching TV game shows.

Does that make me a closet nerd? I'd like to think that I was always a diligent student. Not that I have the brains of a real genius, but I wanted to give my parents the least pain, knowing they were paying for my education, a responsibility that didn't come cheap. My mother did her best not to make me forget how lucky I was to be in school, so the best I could do was avoid being asked to take any subject a second time or repeat an academic level. I had my close shaves but I fought through it. Besides, it was much easier on the eyes to see your folks fighting over whose genetic combination did the trick than seeing the kind of look that asks, "Where did I go wrong?" or "What do I have to do?"

Owing to childhood convulsions that could have easily fried my brain, I've heard my father once saying to a co-worker that I would either grow up to be really smart or really dumb. I wish I never heard him say that.

Being the youngest among three children, I wanted to prove that my parents finally got the genetic mix right. I just had to give my studies my best shot. Often, I would be spotted at the library longer than I needed to, one of the early telltale signs of a nerd in conception. Oh no.

I did scoff at my mother's idea of a summer vacation, telling her that reading the encyclopedia was not as enjoyable as she made it sound. But wait! Did I really talk back like that to her? I think I actually read a few pages to find out for myself. I am now cringing to see my geek points rising.

So I know what the acronyms RAM, modem, CRT, DNA and laser stand for. That's easy, compared to explaining the difference between vectors and scalars about which I profess complete ignorance. (I just pray that my former high school physics teacher is not reading this.)

Other signs that I could be a nerd in denial: Weren't we all, at one point, mesmerized by Rubik's cube, taking it apart and putting it back together again? What's wrong with a pencil case, and taking notes using more than one color?

Much as I tried to keep a low profile back in school, word easily spread that I was the go-to girl when one missed an important lecture. The only reward I derived from that experience was not having to carry such a heavy school bag when exams were coming, unlike at the start of the term.

But the single most obvious sign that I could be a nerd has to be my ubiquitous pair of eyeglasses. For years and years, I never seriously thought that wearing glasses was what one got for being a voracious reader, though I would sometimes joke that I was using them as a prop to make me look smarter than I actually was.

Still the real reason my 20/20 vision got damaged was that I stayed too close to the television set when I was younger. It just wasn't as much fun watching TV when you were six feet away, was it? I was convinced about this, until I read in a medical journal that watching too close to the TV set only gave you short-term eyestrain, nothing more.

I read so much that some people think I am joking when I tell them staying too close to the microwave oven is more dangerous. They probably think I am taking away the fun of watching food turn around like an old vinyl record.

Back in the 1980s there was a film called "Revenge of the Nerds." I never felt like I was one of them, but I suppose seeing it more than once does count when you are weighing whether you unconsciously want to be one of them.

Which takes me to why I took a quiz appearing in another publication that was supposed to tell you whether you were a nerd or not just once but three times. The reason? The first time I took it, I got the jolting result that saying I was a closet nerd. But didn't I begin this essay by categorically denying it?

So I took the test again, convinced that the result was a fluke. I could not possibly know that much. I cannot answer most of the questions asked on "Jeopardy." I cannot tell a technical joke and open myself to ridicule by trying to explain it. I watch tennis and golf as forms of recreation than practical applications of geometric principles. And memorable as my high school biology class was, I swore that I would never dissect anything again.

On my second try, I got a less embarrassing but still a nerd rating. Maybe if I denied knowing some more, I said to myself, I would get to the lowest possible score.

Then it dawned one me: Just by taking the quiz, I was already making myself a nerd in-training. I didn't even have to earn a single point.

I took a deep breath and realized there was no way out. The final question couldn't be any more accurate: After getting that far, I did not even have to look at my test score.

Marie Anne Fajardo, 25, contributes articles regularly to a magazine.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

THEY SAID

Disastrous talks

"The negotiations led to so much wealth getting into the hands of these hooligans."

—Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, stressing the disastrous results of negotiations with Abu Sayyaf for the release of hostages

Final objective

"The main objective is not simply recovering the hostages but destroying the capability of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist, bandits and their allies to continue terrorizing the Filipino people."

—AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan

Cooperation

"As the child of two administrations, this law should prove that when the interest of the Filipino people is at stake, Congress and the executive branch will readily set aside politics and join hands to benefit our people."

—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on the Power Reform Act

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Amnesty benefits former MILF members

THIS is to clarify certain misconceptions brought about by the article titled "MILF blasts latest government offer of amnesty" that came out in your June 11 issue.

First of all, Proclamation No. 390, which grants amnesty to members and supporters of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, was issued by former President Estrada on Sept. 29, 2000 as part of the comprehensive solution to the problems of Mindanao. It was concurred in by the House of Representatives on Dec. 6, 2000 and by the Senate on Feb. 7, 2001. With the concurrence of Congress, Proclamation 390 thus became a law which the National Amnesty Commission is mandated to implement.

Proclamation No. 390 is in pursuance of the components of the comprehensive peace process, known as the Six Paths to Peace, enunciated in EO 125 issued by former President Fidel Ramos, and adopted by former President Estrada and now President Macapagal, as embodied in her EO 3, as follows:

(1) Pursuit of social, economic and political reforms.

(2) Consensus building and empowerment for peace.

(3) Peaceful negotiated settlement with the different rebel groups.

(4) Programs for reconciliation, reintegration into mainstream society and rehabilitation.

(5) Addressing concerns arising from continuing armed hostilities.

(6) Building and nurturing a climate conducive to peace.

Amnesty is but part and parcel of the Fourth Path to Peace.

Contrary to the statement of Eid Kabalu who said that "the government was obviously intent on quelling the rebellion by enticing their (MILF) members to surrender," Proclamation 390 is intended for **former** members of the MILF who have already surrendered and are resolute in securing the legality of their status. Moreover, the cut-off date for the commission of crimes under the Proclamation is Sept. 29, 2000, which means that crimes committed after this date shall be excluded from the coverage of the amnesty grant. Clearly therefore, Proclamation No. 390 does not focus on active members of the MILF, but only those who have already laid down their arms and have decided to lead peaceful lives.

A total of 4,054 MILF members and supporters have surrendered as of Dec. 31, 2000. This is a matter of public knowledge as the surrenders were well covered by media. It is these former members and supporters of the MILF who are the intended beneficiaries of the amnesty proclamation. Without a grant of amnesty, these individuals will continue to be criminally liable for acts they committed in pursuit of rebellion, their surrender notwithstanding.

With respect to the timing of the proclamation, we would like to reiterate that it was concurred in by Congress and came into effect as early as Feb. 7, 2001. The proclamation allows for an application period of six months from the date of concurrence or up to Aug. 6, 2001. In fact, as early as May 15, 2001, 749 individuals claiming affiliation with the MILF have filed their applications for amnesty. The limited resources of the office and the recent elections delayed the information campaign on this proclamation. If the information campaign was conducted during the election period, it would have been drowned out by election propaganda.

LETTERS

Lastly, as to the "bandits who wanted to cash in on the government's amnesty program," we would like to inform you that the commission undertakes a rigorous screening and verification procedure to ensure that only those who are truly deserving are extended the benefits of amnesty. As a result of this, the commission, since its creation in 1994, has denied 905 applications, principally because the applicants were not bona fide rebels. Rest assured that the commission will continue to be as vigilant as ever.

We hope that this has enlightened you and your readers.—**ALFREDO F. ADIAR, chair, National Amnesty Commission, 4th Floor, Golden Sun Realty Bldg., Mindanao Ave. cor. Alley 14, Pag-asa, Quezon City**

Blood on his hands

THE DEATH of Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo in the hands of assassins has stirred varied reactions. But the most commonly held view and perhaps the easiest explanation are that his killing was a logical consequence of his life as a military man.

Aguinaldo had the reputation of being a ruthless torturer of rebel captives. He was also tagged by human rights organizations as the record holder in terms of number of human rights violations, especially and ironically in his own province during the Marcos regime. Contrary to how his adoring constituents in Cagayan saw him (as a hero), those to whom he owed blood debts saw Agui as a cold-blooded freak capable of committing the most brutish acts against his victims.

My own brother, Johannes Barrozo, was one of his innumerable victims. Johannes was abducted by the military in 1975 and was never seen or heard from again. My family sought all possible help to locate Johannes but nothing conclusive turned out. All we learned from our own investigations was that Aguinaldo had a hand in the abduction and disappearance of my brother.

I am now a member of the Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND), a national support group-organization for the *desaparecidos*. Our organization believes the fallen Agui is culpable for many crimes and he should have been compelled to answer for them before the courts. It is tragic that Agui had to be meted justice beyond the halls of the state's justice system by forces that do not subscribe to its procedures and dynamics. We deplore violence and we cannot allow the depravity and corruption of political vendetta to destroy society. But the wickedness and wrongfulness of delayed justice and impunity is equally tragic. We find it difficult to choose between a judiciary that drags its feet and twiddles its thumbs on justice issues and the rebel movement's brand of justice, which because of its very nature loses much of the justice it purports to achieve.

We regret that Agui's death should come at this point when FIND stands in the middle of a vigorous campaign to seek all possible legal avenues to obtain justice for the victims of involuntary disappearances like my brother who disappeared into the dark shadows of Aguinaldo's counterinsurgency crimes. Aguinaldo knows a lot about the cases of the missing. Alive he could have given valuable information. Futile though it might seem, we also hoped to someday stand in court face to face with Agui and his kind to exact the sweetest justice of all, which was one decided by a judicial court in the country

We take inspiration from Chile, a brave country which is now prosecuting its former dictator, Augusto Pinochet, for the excesses he committed when he was made in power. The prosecution of perpetrators of human rights violations in Argentina has given lessons to would be perpetrators that never again should this inhumanity be repeated in history.

Agui's death has slammed the door to the solution of the cases for he was liable. We hope that public opinion which has shifted in favor of Agui because of the extrajudicial punishment he got from the rebel forces will reconsider. Agui may have been a political phenomenon in Cagayan, but he had blood on his hands and it will be a sacrilege to those who died fighting for decency and justice in this country, like our *desaparecidos*, to call him a hero.—**IRA BARROZO-MANARANG, Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND), P.O. Box AC 546, Cubao, Quezon City**

Kanla-on power project won't hurt environment

WE wish to air our side on the concerns raised in the report titled "Groups oppose bill on Kanla-on buffer area" (PDI, 6/10/01) which called for the withdrawal of a bill by Congress and the veto of another bill by the President.

While we respect the position of groups that are against setting aside an area of 169 hectares at the edge of the 24,577-hectare Kanla-on Park for geothermal exploration and development, we believe that the public must also be informed of the following:

(1) The government is pursuing the 40-megawatt geothermal project for the power security of Negros Occidental and the Visayas. At the moment, it is the only firm project committed in the Philippine Energy Plan to address the 1,310-megawatt power demand of the Visayas from Years 2000-2009. The rest are still unidentified and will depend on the private sector investment.

(2) The decision of the legislature allowing geothermal development in the park is the culmination of a process spanning five years for securing the environmental permits and another five years and four months for the park review process. Consistent with the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act (Nipas), the issue of geothermal development in the park was reviewed by the appropriate environment authorities and the park stakeholders before it was considered by Congress. Concerned environmental groups participated in the process. Exhaustive consultations, negotiations and studies were made to ensure that all concerns were addressed and resolved appropriately.

(3) Geothermal operation in the park was approved by the majority or 89 percent of the park stakeholders in a five-month consultation with local government councils and park communities from Sept. 23, 1996 to Jan. 13, 1997. These were witnessed by park board and NGO representatives. In summary, the communities endorsed the operation as it will promote energy self-reliance and because they recognize that only a small area will be affected and that there will be corresponding environmental measures.

(4) Geothermal power is one of the environmentally advantageous energy options identified in Chapter 9 (Protection of the Atmosphere) of the Rio Declaration of the Earth Summit of 1992. Being a water-based resource, geothermal will need forests to sustain its operation. In fact, geothermal reservations are found to be one of the areas in the country with higher percentage of forests because of this need. Thus, geothermal management may be made compatible with park management. The feasibility of geothermal's coexistence with parks is confirmed by the presence of geothermal projects in the parks of New Zealand, United States, Japan and Italy.

Lastly, we would like to assure you that we have heeded the concerns of the environmental groups. During the park review process, we reduced the geothermal block from 1,850 hectares in February 1996 to only 169 hectares in December 2000. Their observations have also caused us to enhance our environmental measures and we are continuing with our studies to find new ways to improve on them. As members of the park board, we expect them to be represented in the multi-sectoral monitoring group that will conduct regular audits of our operation in the park. We hope that they will give us a chance to fulfill our energy mission and at the same time assist the management of watersheds in our worksite.—**SERGIO F. APOSTOL, chair and CEO, PNOC Energy development Corp., PNOC Energy Companies Building, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1201 Makati City**

Cafgus only worsen the problem

TWO weeks ago, Commission on Human Rights Chair Aurora Navarette-Recina cautioned the government against using the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units (Cafgus) to suppress the Abu Sayyaf. But the Cafgus expressed readiness to mobilize themselves against the Abu Sayyaf.

To recall, Cafgus were established in 1987 for counterinsurgency. The Cafgus became notorious as human rights violators and thus human rights groups campaigned for its disbandment. The United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the Senate committee on human rights under Sen. Wigberto Tañada recommended its dissolution.

We believe that many factors, including the continuing poverty, absence of decent employment, inadequate social services, the human rights abuses in Mindanao and the rest of the country that go unpunished have brought about complex consequences such as the Abu Sayyaf. Therefore, the problem does not simply need more armed forces. And the Cafgus would only worsen the situation there now.

We reiterate our position that the Cafgus must be dismantled. We hope that the government, aside from running after the Abu Sayyaf now, will also immediately put in place other programs that would help remove the causes that make young men join the Abu Sayyaf to become bandits.—**AURORA A. PARONG, executive director, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, 19 Malingap St., Teachers' Village, 1101 Quezon City**

Rizal, Roco and Robin

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

ROBIN Padilla's right: we'll never solve our problems in Mindanao unless more attention is given to the education of Muslim youth. Padilla, who converted to Islam, is trying to raise money for a foundation to grant scholarships to Muslims.

But it will not be enough to have more scholarships. It would be useful if Padilla went back to read Jose Rizal's writings about education to see how the schools themselves can become part of the problem, rather than the solution.

Rizal was writing in the late 19th century, when the educational system was truly pathetic. In his essay, "The Town Schools in the Philippines," Rizal described the lack of classrooms, books and teachers, reminding us of Raul Roco's litany of horrors as he uncovers problem after problem at the education department. It should console Roco to know that in Rizal's time, there were towns that did not even have a schoolhouse, so that classes had to be conducted in "the barracks, the jail, or town hall." At least that isn't happening today. On the other hand, in some cases classes had to be held in the open air, something which still happens today.

Besides the lack of infrastructure and personnel, Rizal described the mechanical way in which reading, writing and arithmetic were taught. He wrote about the control of the friars over the educational system, with students having to memorize religious texts such as "Doctrina Cristiana" and different novenas. Teachers, he noted, were more familiar with Latin than with "Castillan." (Rizal was in favor of integration with Spain, and this included the use of Spanish in schools.)

This educational system, Rizal wrote, was responsible for keeping the towns backward: "Blame rather the defect and insensible system of education that, like a thick fog, obscures the intellectual horizon, killing and drowning the most felicitous aptitudes."

In another essay, "The Indolence of Filipinos," Rizal once again indicted the system: "The education of the Filipino from birth until the grave is brutalizing, depressing and anti-human." Rizal described the system as one that consisted of "daily preaching," an effort "to humble the native, to make him accept the yoke, to reduce him to the level of a beast." Yet if the *indio* was reduced to the level of the beast, Rizal observed that the friars still expected "divine action" from this brutalized animal: "It is necessary for him to lay aside his dignity as a rational being, to hear Mass, to confess, obey the curate, believe whatever he is told, pay whatever is demanded of him, pay and always pay; toil, suffer and keep silent..."

Rizal's point is that the educational system can itself be an obstacle to a nation's progress. Throughout history, all the way up to the present, we have seen the way the educational system has been used to tame the population. In the context of minority groups such as Muslim Filipinos, education can become a tool of oppression, much like the way the Spaniards used the schools to keep the *indio* subjugated.

But even for non-minority groups, the educational system still tends to keep Filipinos docile and passive. A few months ago, I visited some public elementary schools in a rural area and was both amused and alarmed by some of the slogans in the classrooms. One read, "*Ang makulit na bata, maraming kagalit.*" It's hard to translate "*makulit*" because when applied to a Filipino child, it means someone who asks "too many" questions, or who has a kind of dogged determination about doing things. Such children, the slogan says, have few friends. Yet this same inquisitiveness and stubbornness are traits encouraged among children in the west and no wonder, westerners know very well that this childhood trait of being *makulit* is the stuff that makes tomorrow's movers and shakers.

Another slogan I saw posted in a classroom read: "The best thinking is done with the mouth closed." Teaching at UP with classes of 50 to 80 students in classrooms meant for 30, I can empathize with the weary public school teachers who want silence. But I'm more worried when students stop talking and asking questions, because then I know they're totally bored and not learning anything. A system of imposed silence, such as the ones we see in our schools, stifles creativity and encourages blind conformity.

Rizal had his own visions for education. He thought of establishing a "Colegio Moderno" for boys and drafted a prospectus listing subjects that would be taught: mathematics, history, different languages (including Chinese!), the arts (music, drawing and dance) as well as sports (not just gymnastics but Swedish gymnastics, as well as fencing, swimming and horseback riding). At the top of his list of subjects were "morals, study of religions, natural law, civil law, deportment, hygiene."

Rizal was deeply anti-clerical but he was not against religion. In his essay on town schools, Rizal observed that the schools' use of novenas and the rosary's mysteries "serve neither to foment or awaken faith nor to make one a Christian in the true meaning of the word."

It's time we asked if perhaps it is our very child-rearing and schooling systems, with their insistence on conformity and absolutist thinking, that allow such fanatical groups as the Abu Sayyaf to grow. It is this same blind obedience that allows other religious cult leaders and traditional politicians to maintain their following. Schools, Rizal wrote, should offer alternatives, prospects for a better life. Once exposed to these alternatives, people would on their own "fight to get out of the moral dungeons..."

We all started school with many dreams and many questions. If the country is to move forward, educators must make sure the young—Christian or Muslim—are given the tools with which they can dream more, and question more.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.org

Blaming the masses

I WISH to react to what Isagani A Cruz wrote in his column last June 10.

I find nothing wrong with his criticizing Noli de Castro's topping the senatorial race. The educational qualifications of a government official are a legitimate concern.

However, I do not think that blaming the masses who voted for De Castro will make voters more discerning or wiser. My Iglesia ni Cristo relatives took offense at Cruz's statement that InC members are stupid and vote like robots. They defended their unity in voting as a matter of faith that should not be looked down upon by those who have no understanding of it. They asked me how I would feel if they called me names because I pray to the Blessed Mother and to the saints.

Each of us may have our own view of what is beautiful or ugly, right or wrong. We are free to discuss it with one another as intelligent individuals by respecting one another's person and not resorting to immature bullying. This I told my relatives and I am now telling the columnist.

Those who rallied in protest of our celebration of Independence Day were right when they said that we Filipinos are not yet totally free as a nation. We have not freed ourselves of the divisive bashing over one another's differences.

It just dawned on me: Why did Cruz not question the large support given by Kabayan Noli's home TV station, ABS-CBN, in the recent elections? It cannot be denied that the importance given by the media company to De Castro did help in getting votes for De Castro. Are the Lopezes also stupid?—**ABIGAIL GARCIA, Dian Street, Makati City**

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N. Korea demands US pay for losses

SEOUL—In its first response to a US proposal to resume stalled talks, North Korea yesterday said that contact should begin with discussion of US compensation for what it alleges are economic losses.

After several months of extensive deliberations, US President George W. Bush ordered his foreign policy team on June 8 to open talks with North Korea to focus on that nation's missile program and its massive deployment of troops near South Korea's border.

After taking office in January, Bush delayed resuming the discussions that had been begun by the previous administration of President Bill Clinton so that top aides could undertake the policy review.

Nudging aside the proposed US agenda, North Korea said the talks should focus on the alleged US failure to keep its end of a 1994 agreement, under which the North froze its suspected nuclear weapons program.

The agreement requires a US-led international consortium to provide North Korea with two power-generating light-water nuclear reactors by 2003 but the $4.6 billion project has been delayed by funding problems and military and political tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Claiming that the delay is causing it a huge electricity loss, North Korea is demanding compensation for it.

"The electricity loss from the delay in building light-water reactors should be taken up as a priority agenda in the talks," a North Korean foreign ministry spokesperson said in a radio broadcast, monitored in Seoul.

The spokesperson, who was not identified by name, complained that Washington has unilaterally set the agenda despite saying that the proposed talks have no conditions attached.

"We cannot but evaluate the US proposal as unilateral and conditional in its nature and hostile in its intentions," the spokesperson said.

"The US-proposed agenda concerns our nuclear, missile and conventional armaments and this all is nothing but an attempt to disarm us," he said. *AP*

Bangladesh blast sparks new violence

DHAKA—There were violent backlashes on the streets of Bangladesh after the worst bomb blast in the nation's history left 22 dead, police and reports said yesterday.

In Dhaka, at least two staff of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chair Khaleda Zia were hurt when unidentified gunmen in taxis and on motorcycles opened fire on the party offices, police and opposition party sources said.

Outraged BNP activists blamed the attack on the ruling Awami League party and went on a late night rampage Sunday, setting fire to at least two vehicles and damaging several others.

A crude bomb also exploded in old Dhaka late Sunday, narrowly missing a car carrying opposition left-party politician Rashed Khan Menon, police said.

In the port city of Chittagong BNP supporters, reacting to news of alleged attacks on Zia's motorcade and the party office in Dhaka, staged protest marches, setting fire to a bus and stoning several vehicles.

Police yesterday said they had beefed up security throughout the city.

Violent clashes, mostly involving supporters of the Awami League party of Prime Minister Shekh Hasina Wajed and former prime minister Zia, were also reported yesterday from several outlying districts.

Saturday night's blast at the party offices of the Awami League in the port city of Narayanganj also left at least 100 people injured.

It was the deadliest act of terror in Bangladesh's 30-year history.

About 400 supporters of Sheikh Hasina Wajed's party had been at the meeting in Narayanganj, a traditional party stronghold 20 km east of the capital, when the blast hit at around 9:30 p.m.

The massive explosion blew the tin roof of the office building clean off and left a scene of carnage and terror inside.

Sheikh Hasina hinted on Sunday she thought the BNP was involved in the bombing

She said the opposition wanted to disrupt imminent polls as it "knows the Awami League would sweep to back to power in a free and fair election." *AFP*

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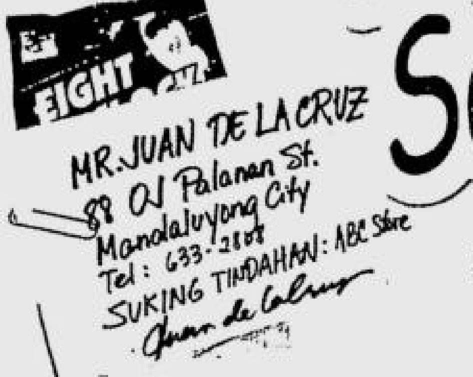

MECHANICS

1. Every purchase of Eight O'Clock Orange Drink Mix (Original flavor, Orange-Mango, Orange-Pineapple, Litro packs) entitles the consumer to join the raffle.
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   - *Two (2) 250 g pack*
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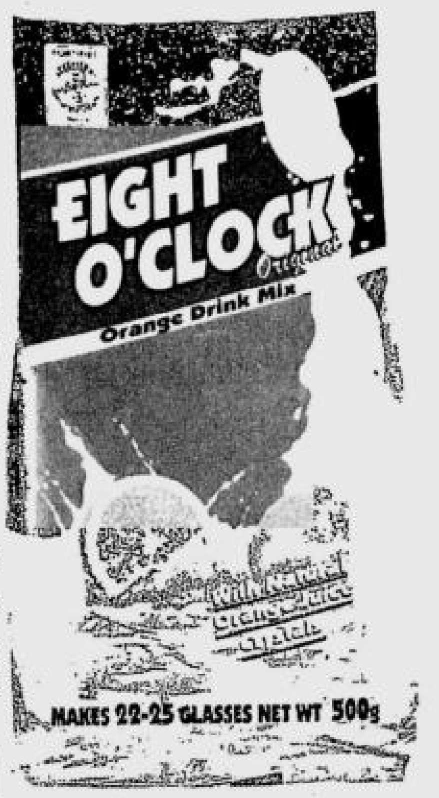
4. There will only be one (1) draw to be held in ABS-CBN's MTB variety show. The raffle draw will be on August 8, 2001.
5. The entries will be separated according to area, as follows: GMA, LUZON, VISAYAS, MINDANAO.
6. All entries will be drawn in the presence of a DOH-BFAD representative.
7. Shall any conflict arise from the drawing of entries, the decision of the Sugarland and/or Agency representative will be deemed final subject to the concurrence from the DOH-BFAD representative.
8. For the grand prize, there will be four (4) winners for the Toyota Revo, each coming from the different areas. The store where he purchased the product will receive P10,000.00.
9. The consolation prize winners will also be drawn according to area
10. The consolation prizes are as follows
    - *Two (2) winners of P100,000.00 in GMA*
    - *Two (2) winners of P 100,000.00 in Luzon*
    - *Two (2) winners of P 100,000.00 in Visayas*
    - *Two (2) winners of P 100,000.00 in Mindanao*
11. The grand draw and corresponding cut-off date is as follows:
    DRAW DATE : AUGUST 8, 2001 / CUT OFF DATE : JULY 30, 2001
12. Winner's will be announced over ABS-CBN'S MTB variety show and will also be published in newspapers and notified by registered mail as to where and when they can claim their prizes.
13. The winner should bring 2 valid IDs with picture and the letter/telegram from Sugarland when claiming their prizes.
14. The winner will be responsible for the registration and insurance of the vehicle and the shipping of his/her prize if needed.
15. A winner can only win once. Should his/her name be drawn more than once, he gets the prize of higher value. Another name will be drawn for the other prize.
16. Prizes are not convertible to cash and are not transferrable.
17. All prizes are subject to tax & should be shouldered by the winner.
18. Winners will be required to be photographed for advertising and publicity purposes.
19. Prizes not claimed after ninety (90) days from receipt of notice will be forfeited upon prior approval from DOH-BFAD.
20. Employees of Sugarland Beverage Corporation, La Tondena Distillers and San Miguel Corporation, its Distributors, advertising and promo agencies, including their relatives up to the second degree of affinity and consanguinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
    Deadline for submission of entries is July 30, 2001



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Report says Taiwan secretly developing ballistic missile

DOH-NCR CALLS FOR ANOTHER PEOPLE POWER

Dr. Elvira Sto. Niño-Dayrit
Directress (DOH-NCR)

The **Department of Health National Capital Region** calls for another PEOPLE POWER --- a communal effort for the crusade against one of the most precarious diseases to sweep the country since its first spread in 1995, DENGUE. The DOH warns of a possible outbreak anytime this year, for reports have already stated an alarming 2953 cases around the country just from January 1 to May 30 of this year. And the number is continuously growing.

Dr. Elvira Sto-Niño-Dayrit, MSc MCH, CESO IV, Regional Director of the DOH-NCR revealed that this growth is already anticipated since there is a three-year pattern *"Depende kasi yan, sa first infection puedeng parang lalagnatin ka lang, sa second infection, doon naghe-hemorrhage o yung bumabagsak sa shock, ito yung re-infection, tapos pag-nagkakaipon na ang mga batang may re-infection, pumuputok uli ang mga kasong may pagdurugo na kailangan nang ma-ospital ."* Every year, DENGUE is observed to increase two months after the onset of rainy season. But then, even if the rainy season hasn't even started yet, the records as of this date is 71% higher than the last year given the same period of time from January to May. Twenty-nine percent is recorded in NCR with 912 cases. Hot spots include Manila, Valenzuela, Quezon City and Caloocan. Region Seven follows with 855 and Region Three with 338. The age of the cases range from 0 to 95 with a median of 12. The most commonly affected are those between 10-19, those who mostly go out of their houses. *"Sa monitoring sa NCR, nagbi-breed ang dengue infected mosquitoes sa labas ng bahay. Mas mataas ang positibong lamok na nasa labas kaya yung madalas lumalabas ng bahay ang prone sa Dengue, kaya siguro mga 10 - 19 years old ang maraming may Dengue ngayon"*, the directress explains. Breeding grounds for Dengue-carriers also include stagnant water areas, moist swampy places, stored vehicle tires and even earthen jars. This viral disease is transmitted by the **Aedes Aegypti Mosquito** and attacks the blood streams and may even cause the rapture of capillaries or even death.

The committed directress advocates for a pro-active prevention and control measure for the total fight against dengue. Some of its intensified programs in the community include: (1) Source Reduction where a "search and destroy" operation of the breeding places are done through the active community participation; (2) Aedes Surveillance on the other hand is the monitoring of larva indices and outbreaks through a process called "ovitrap index determination"; the third is (3) Preventive Fogging and Spraying which are integral measures to kill the deadly species especially in hotspot areas plus (4) a series of intensified health education campaign. Avoidance of mosquito bites are also very essential, as Dr. Dayrit recommends like avoiding playing outside the house early in the morning or near sunset, wearing long sleeves and long pants and applying mosquito lotions to children in the household may also help.

Generally, Dr. Dayrit calls for a unified labor from the communities, local government units and even for individual initiatives to make this campaign really effective. She further stressed that cleanliness, sanitation, discipline and cooperation should be maintained for us to be really successful in this fight against one of the most deadliest diseases in the country today.

TAIPEI—Taiwan is secretly researching and developing a medium-range ballistic missile in the face of a perceived threat from China, military sources said in a newspaper yesterday.

Military authorities hope to develop a surface-to-surface missile with a range of up to 2,000 km, the unidentified sources told the United Daily News.

But the defense ministry denied the claim. "The report was not correct. The military has not embarked on related RetD (research and development) programs," it said in a statement.

The paper said the development of such a missile would not be difficult for the Chungshan Institute of Science and Technology, the island's cradle of indigenous weaponry including jet fighters, air defense missiles and radar systems.

It said the planned missile, inspired by the 1996 missile crisis, was intended to put China on the defensive and force it to divert a big chunk of military budget to defense programs.

Taiwan's defense ministry has said China's Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) has some 300 ballistic missiles trained on the island.

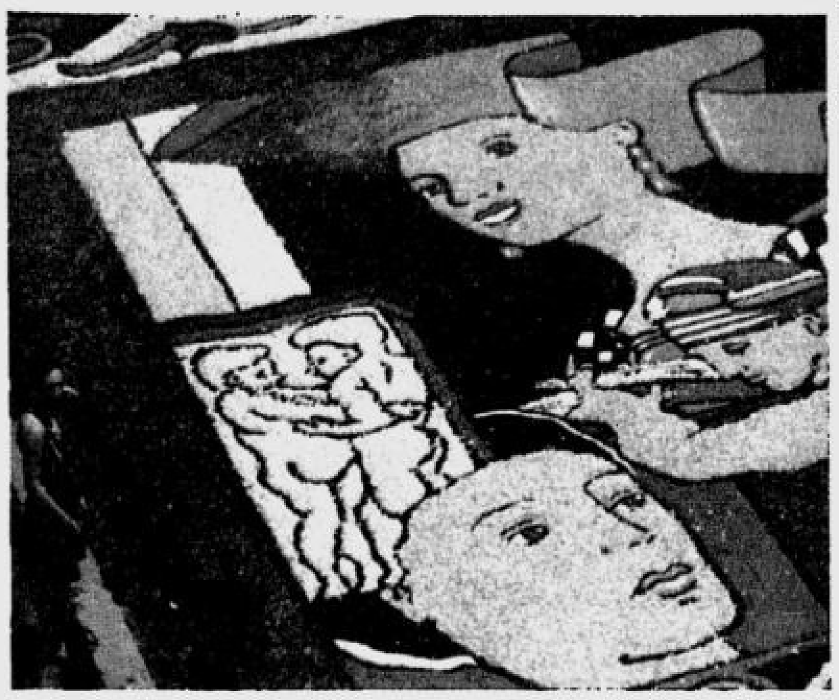
Taiwan plans to build a missile shield estimated to cost tens of billions of US dollars, which the paper said dwarfs the amount of money pumped into the ballistic missiles the PLA has deployed along the southeastern part of the mainland.

China regards Taiwan as part of its territory that must return to it, if necessary, by force.

The paper said the missile development program had been given priority after it was briefed to President Chen Shui-bian last year.

Taiwan's Vice Defense Minister Chen Pi-chao said last month the island would go ahead with its weapons development plans despite its massive purchase of arms from the US.

In April the new Bush administration approved the single biggest arms package to Taiwan in nearly a decade. It included eight diesel-powered submarines, 12 P-3C "sub-hunting" patrol aircraft and four Kidd class destroyers. *AFP*



FLORAL ART REUTERS

A woman admires a floral panel titled "Sibila Libica," one of elaborate floral decorations made by residents using flower petals, on the main street of Genzano, south of Rome June 17. The flower decorations have been part of a festival celebrating the Corpus Domini (Body of Christ) feast for over 200 years.

2 Japanese schools adopt disputed history textbook

TOKYO—Two Japanese junior high schools have become the first to decide to use a controversial history textbook condemned by Japan's Asian neighbors for allegedly glossing over Tokyo's wartime atrocities, a school official and reports said yesterday.

"We have adopted Fuso Publishing's history textbook for freshmen from next year," Sadahiro Inoue, headmaster of the private Reitaku Mizunami junior high school in central Japan said.

"The reason why we decided to use it is because we can sense from the textbook that, as a whole, it tries to let children have confidence and pride in their country's history and culture," Inoue said.

Tsuda Gakuen junior high school in Kuwana, western Japan, has also decided to teach with the textbook beginning next April, Kyodo News reported.

School officials were not available for comment because of their participation in a sports festival in a neighboring town, an employee at the school said.

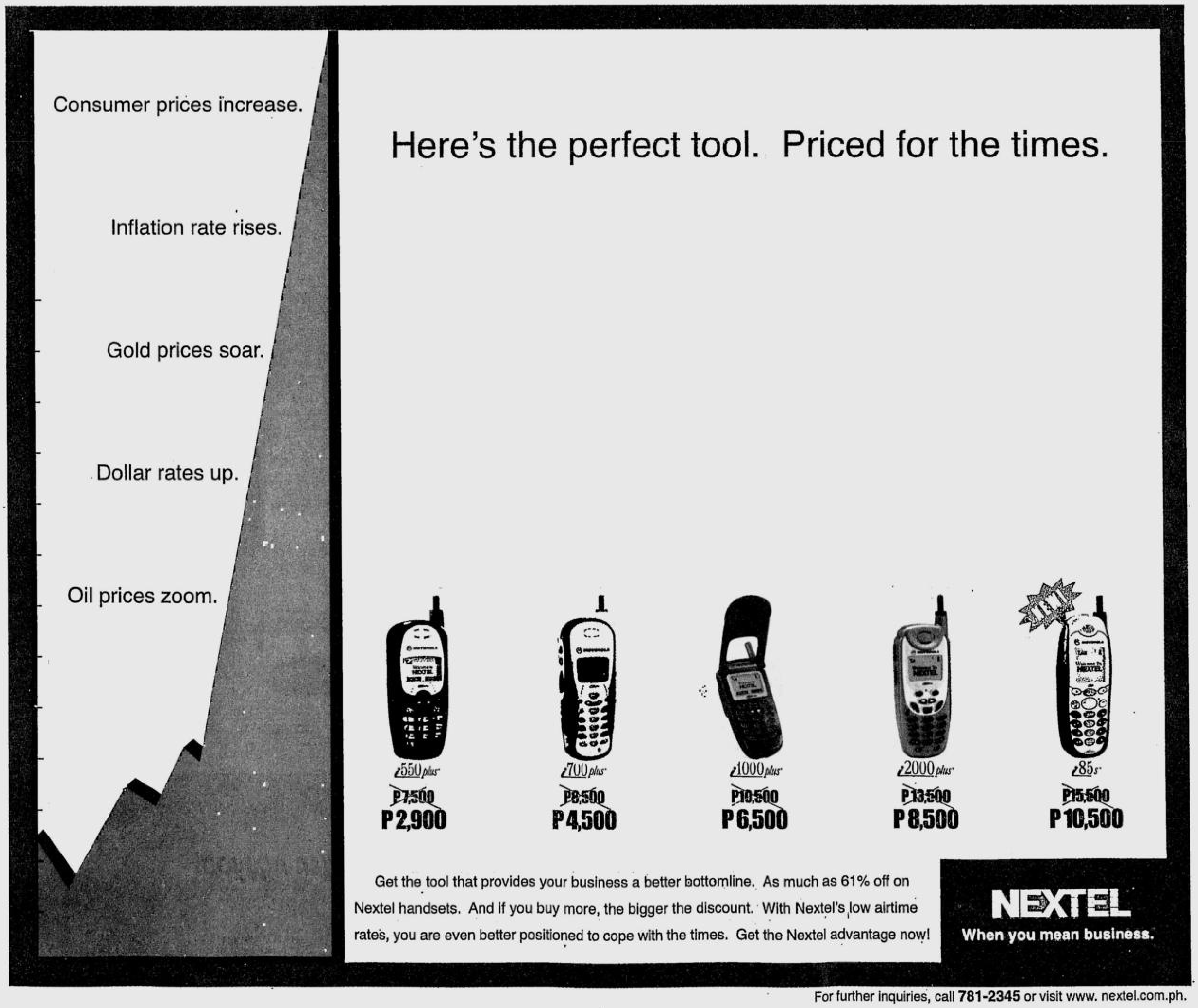
The two schools are the first in the country to officially announce the decision to use the textbook, Fuso Publishing's editor in chief Eiichi Manabe said.

"There was no objection from our Parent-Teachers' Association," Reitaku's headmaster said.

"The textbook has a plenty of pictures and figures, lots of descriptions of cultural topics, and writes candidly about people who contributed to Japanese history and myths."

The book was edited by the Society for History Textbook Reform, a group of avowedly nationalist historians who assert Japan has become too "masochistic" in assessing its past.

The book's clearance in April by the government as suitable for use in schools provoked an angry reaction in several Asian countries invaded by Japan, souring relations with China and South Korea in particular. *DAFP*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THAI Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra waves to supporters from the balcony of the Constitutional Court where he appeared to defend himself in a corruption trial on June 18. REUTERS

Thai PM takes the stand, denies corruption charges

BANGKOK—Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra took the stand yesterday to make an emotional last-ditch defense against corruption charges that could end his four-month-old leadership.

Thousands of supporters gave Thaksin a rousing welcome as he arrived at the Constitutional Court to deliver the closing argument against allegations he deliberately concealed part of his huge fortune in a 1997 filing.

Thaksin said he had "erred in good faith" by failing to declare $233 million in assets—part of the telecommunications empire he built before entering politics.

"It was never my intention to conceal my wealth," he said in his debut appearance at the court. "It is just impossible for me to keep track of my fortune . . . and the errors can be attributed to oversight."

Apparently on the verge of tears, Thaksin appealed to the judges not to bring down a guilty verdict that would earn him a five-year ban from politics and force him to step down from the leadership.

"Whether I will have the opportunity to contribute my best to the country depends on the court," he said.

"The court will decide whether to allow this prime minister to serve the people and the country."

In the prosecution's closing statement, NCCC Secretary General Klanarong Chanthick hammered home charges that Thaksin and his wife deliberately hid the assets in order to evade tax and breach laws on insider trading.

"Thaksin did not tell the truth when he claimed they did not try to conceal the share transactions," he told the court.

"I respect Thaksin's position as a highly popular political leader. But the NCCC must seek to uphold the principles laid down by the Constitution.

Opinion remains split on which way the court's 14 judges will lean when they hand down their ruling, expected within a month.

There is also confusion over whether the five-year ban would apply from the date of the ruling, or from 1997 when the asset declaration was lodged. *AFP*

Syrian army pulls out from Beirut

BEIRUT—The Syrian Army is due to pull out entirely from Beirut Monday, in the face of growing opposition to Damascus' overwhelming military presence in the Lebanese capital.

In the first Syrian reaction since the pull-out operation began on June 14, deputy secretary of the ruling Syrian Baath party Abdullah al-Ahmar said the redeployment was a joint decision by Lebanon and Syria.

"The (Syrian) redeployment is an initiative taken by the Syrian and Lebanese governments," he told the press without elaborating.

However, neither Beirut nor Damascus provided any figures on the extent of the redeployment, due to be completed overnight.

"My comrades left at dawn. There are only ten of us here still but we are to leave tonight," said a Syrian soldier posted at Ramlet-al Baida, along Beirut's Mediterranean coastline, where a Lebanese soldier had already taken over a Syrian position.

The Lebanese soldier said his unit had received instructions to assume Syrian positions in preparation for the further Syrian military withdrawals overnight.

The Syrian troops evacuated nine other positions Sunday in Beirut, two more in Ramlet al-Baida, four in Bir Hassan, one seafront position facing a Lebanese Army complex, another adjoining the city's Mariott hotel and a final one in a building at the American University of Beirut.

The troops are being redeployed toward the Bekaa plain in east Lebanon, which is adjacent to the Syrian border.

The abandoned Syrian positions on Sunday were all in west Beirut, which is mainly Muslim, and has hosted Syrian troops continuously since 1987.

Syrian troops had already left most Christian neighborhoods in east Beirut over the previous three days, which they had entered in 1990 to oust the then anti-Syrian prime minister, Michel Aoun.

Syrian troops first entered Lebanon in 1976, a year after the country's 15-year civil war started.

The sudden redeployment is the culmination of stepped up calls this year, mostly by Christian Lebanese, for Syria's estimated 27,000 troops to be redeployed.

In line with the 1989 Taef accords, which ended Lebanon's civil war, the Syrian Army should have pulled out as early as 1992 from the areas which have been evacuated since Thursday.

The vocal criticism of the Syrian troops broke out after Israel ended its own 22-year occupation of southern Lebanon in May 2000. *AFP*

China reeling from massive locust plague

BEIJING—China is suffering its worst locust plague in years with nearly eight million hectares of land attacked by the crop-eating pests, the official China Daily said yesterday.

So far, the insects have infested more than 7.7 million hectares in 10 provinces, the paper said, quoting the ministry of agriculture.

The worst-hit regions are along the Yellow River and Bohai Sea, parts of south China's Hainan province and the northwestern province of Xinjiang, where the density has hit 3,000 to 10,000 insects per square meter, the paper said.

Part of the reason for the problem in Xinjiang is that Asian migratory locusts from Kazakhstan have invaded the region, the report said.

The pests have appeared in large numbers even in some regions where locusts seldom appear, such as in northeastern Liaoning province.

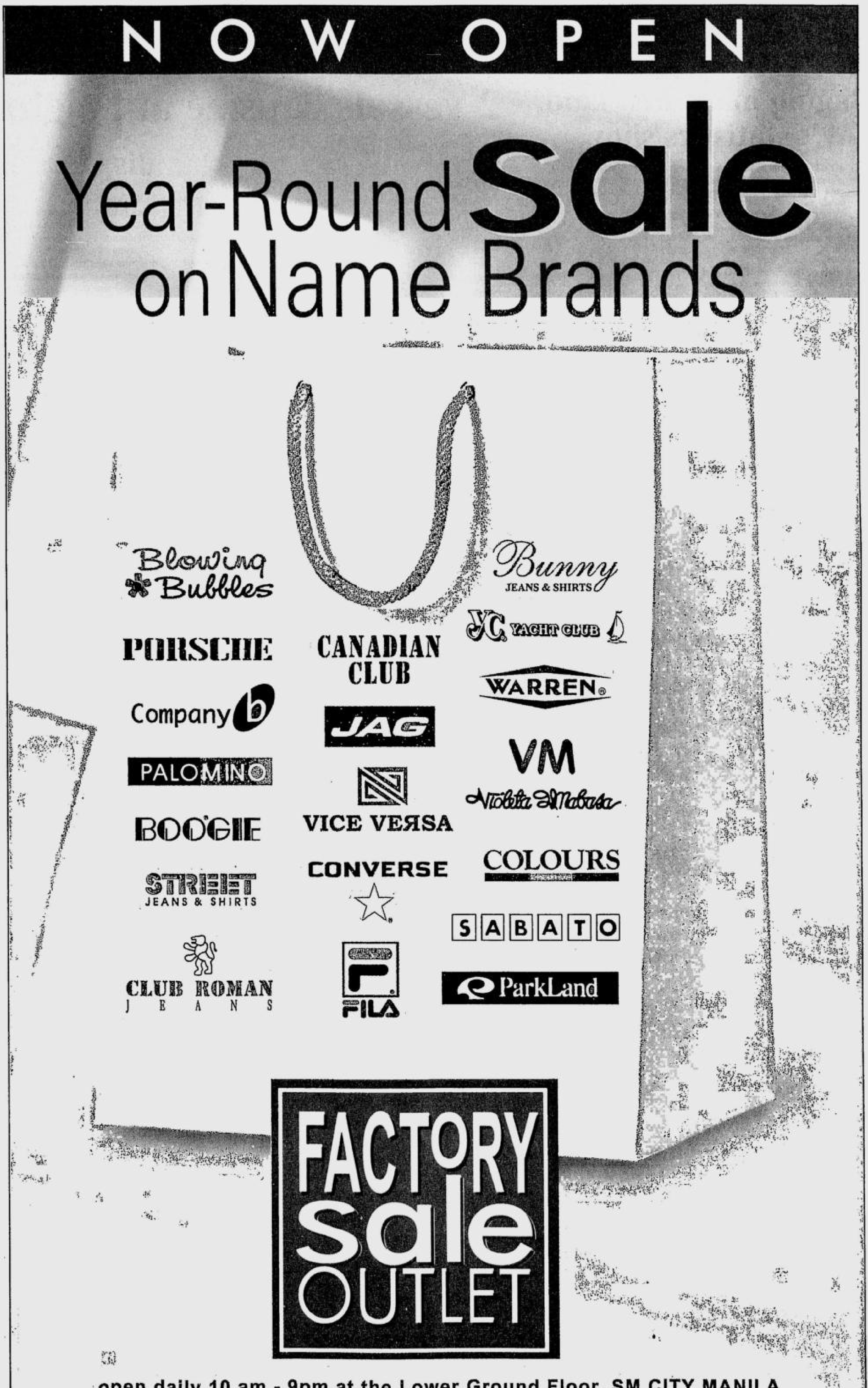
Plague control teams have sprayed insecticide over about 250,000 hectares of waste land, where the insects breed, and will spray another 600,000 hectares within the coming month.

The plague is mainly caused by the chronic dry spell, the report said.

A drought has dried up more than 20 provinces and municipalities over the past three months and has provided a good environment for the breeding of migratory locusts.

The government and agricultural authorities are taking the threat seriously and will try to kill the locusts before they grow wings, the report said.

The government has set aside $3.26 million for the battle against the locusts and another $4.8 million will be allocated soon, the report said. *AFP*



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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

15 revenue agents charged in Ecija

CABANATUAN CITY—A former revenue district officer and 14 collection agents of the Bureau of Internal Revenue in Nueva Ecija are facing separate charges before the regional trial courts here in a number of cases filed by the deputy Ombudsman for Luzon.

Former BIR officer Jose Obtinario was charged recently with falsification of public documents before the sala of Judge Rodrigo Caspillo of the regional trial court of this city.

He was accused of falsifying his daily time record (DTR) when he made it appear that he reported for work here although he was confined in a hospital in Manila.

In the records of the case filed by graft investigation officer Ma. Theresa Bagro, Obtinario, a lawyer, indicated in his DTR that he was in office on Dec. 27 to 29, 1999 when he was confined at the Manila Doctors Hospital seeking treatment for a still unspecified ailment.

An anonymous complaint filed with the Ombudsman on June 22, 2000 alleged that Obtinario was confined in the hospital for 10 days, including on the dates mentioned in the complaint.

Obtinario denied the charges.

The 14 collection agents, who were charged with malversation in various RTC branches several weeks earlier, were accused of failing to remit to the government a total of P39 million of the P59 million withholding taxes submitted to them by several government agencies.

An investigating team of the Commission on Audit in Central Luzon discovered that the collection agents deposited in their bank accounts the missing amount they were supposed to remit to the national treasury.

The period covered by the irregularity, according to the charges, was 1994 to 1997.

Charged and the corresponding amounts which they reportedly did not remit to the government were Teresita Agliam, P161,881.77; Onofre de Guzman, P8,065,455.90; Arnulfo Diaz, P1,415,877.90; Hector Enriquez, P8,725,017.23; Bernardita Gutierrez, P220,400.70; Arthur Lee, P862,403.06; Digna Legaspi, P741,313.08; Edwina Ong, P384,384,416.96; Edgar Pol, P8,415,155.30; Patrick Puntil, P1,228,094.89; Pamfilo Salvador, P6,025,417.79; Teofilo Santos, P488,877.77; Saturnino Valino, P848,358.86; and Ester Ventura, P1,449,163.73.

The regional COA filed the charges earlier before the Ombudsman.

In November 1997, Tito Nabua, COA regional director, confirmed to the INQUIRER that a number of collection agents in Nueva Ecija were being investigated for depositing in their personal accounts the withholding taxes submitted by a number of government agencies.

This they easily did, Nabua said, by adding their respective names as payee in the checks submitted to them by the agencies concerned making it easier for them to deposit the checks in their accounts.

Investigators also said some of the collection agents used receipts of dead collection agents.

The missing amounts were from the withholding taxes of employees of the Paulino J. Garcia Memorial Medical and Research Center, National Food Authority office in Central Luzon, the two districts of the Department of Public Works and Highways in Nueva Ecija, Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems, Land Bank of the Philippines-Cabanatuan, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office and the Philippine Rice Research Institute.

Other agencies whose withholding taxes were deposited in the personal accounts of the erring BIR personnel were the Central Luzon State University, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas regional office, city governments of Cabanatuan and San Jose, and the municipal governments of Sto. Domingo, Talugtog and Bongabon. ***Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Baguio migrants' land, gov't statistics show

BAGUIO CITY—This city's population has increased due largely to migrants and immigrants seeking residence here.

Records from the National Statistics Office showed that Baguio's population last year reached 252,386, representing a 3.29-percent growth from 1995.

Officials of the regional NSO said the increase in population could not only be attributed solely to the birth rate but also to the wave of migration into the summer capital.

Annabelle Nangbayan, statistician of the regional NSO, said they are also expecting a 2.31-percent increase in the current population of Baguio due to the number of students expected to flock to the city's colleges and universities this school year.

Baguio is considered the educational center of the North, where college students from the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Cordillera and even Central Luzon flock to study.

"We also have to note that there might be more migrants and immigrants out there that the NSO has not documented. It is hard to monitor migration and immigration, unlike in China where in every port, they document migrants," Nangbayan said.

But Nangbayan said the primary reason migrants continue to flock to urban centers like Baguio is because of the impression that the city offers better economic opportunities.

"It is not really the weather as others say. That reason only goes for foreigners. People from other provinces leave their places because they seek opportunities in Baguio such as employment and education," Nangbayan said. ***Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

2 vessels capsize at height of 'Darna'

BY JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Two vessels capsized in Cebu and in Zamboanga del Norte on Sunday afternoon due to rough seas stirred up by tropical depression "Darna."

No casualty was reported as all passengers and crewmembers of motorboat Raff James and the ML Sto. Domingo II had been rescued.

Raff James was on its way back to Barangay Pook, Talisay City from Tubigon town in Bohol when it capsized at 5:45 p.m. off the Hilutungan Channel, some 14 kilometers east of Talisay.

Its sister-craft, Raff James II, rescued eight passengers, mainly village officials and health workers of Barangays Pook and San Isidro who went to Tubigon for a picnic.

The passengers were identified as San Isidro barangay captain Regino Sanchez, barangay volunteer guard Filemon Restauro, Jerry Lastimosa, Eliel Abejo, Virgilio Labajo, Bonifacio Hordista, Flory Abarquez and boat operator and owner Victor Restauro.

The ML Sto. Domingo II, on the other hand, capsized about 3:30 p.m. in waters off Barangay Binuangan, Sindangan town, Zamboanga del Norte.

The 34.39 gross ton vessel was bound for nearby Barangay Liloy, also in Sindangan, to deliver 11,255 cases of San Miguel beer from Mandaue City, in Cebu.

The vessel, owned by Mandaue businessman Domingo Yu, left the Mandaue Port Friday afternoon and was expected to arrive in Liloy Sunday night.

Cebu Coast Guard district commander Godofredo Mandal told the INQUIRER that the vessel's eight crewmembers were rescued.

Mandal said he did not have details on how the crewmembers were rescued although he was told that the site of the accident was near Barangay Liloy in Sindangan.

The crewmembers were Rolando Viñegas, master; Donato Viñegas, chiefmate; Teofilo Monghit, chief engineer; Gilmor Butalid, quartermaster; Randy Viñegas, quartermaster; Ronilo Monghit, oiler; Cris Contestable, seaman and Tanny Retome, cook.

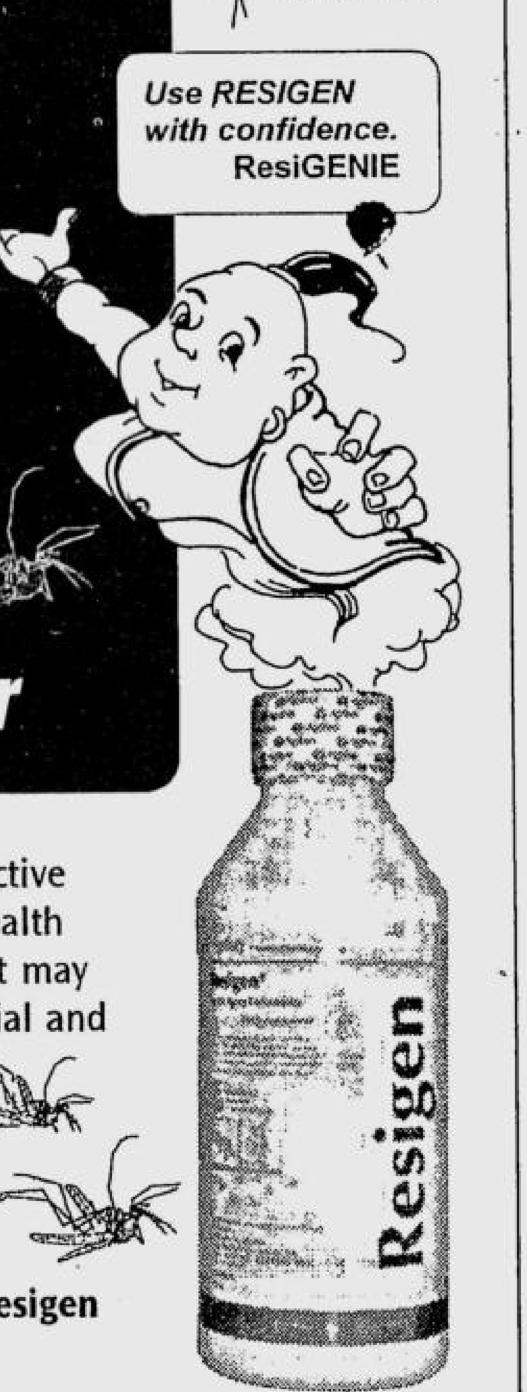
Mandal said the motor-launch was most likely seaworthy and not overloaded because Coast Guard personnel in Mandaue allowed it to sail after an inspection.

Like what happened to Raff James, the incident might have been caused by bad weather conditions, he said.

Based on the weather advisory yesterday, tropical depression Darna had sustained winds of 55 kilometers per hour near the center.

Based on satellite and surface data, Darna was estimated as of 10 a.m. yesterday to be over the South China Sea or 170 kilometers west northwest of Baguio City. It was moving west northwest at 22 kilometers per hour.

Signal No. 1 was hoisted over Zambales, Pangasinan, Benguet, Mt. Province, Ifugao, La Union, Ilocos provinces, Abra and Kalinga Apayao.



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CHARTER CHANGE

Osmeñas divided once more

BACOLOD CITY—Sen. John Osmeña is forming a movement that will push for amendments to the 1987 Constitution.

But don't expect his cousin, Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, who is opposed to Charter change, to join.

John Osmeña told the INQUIRER on Tuesday that the movement will be composed of several sectors in society and will primarily be in charge of creating awareness on the need to amend the Constitution.

"We may start the movement in Cebu and (later) move to other provinces," he said.

Among the provisions that John Osmeña wanted changed include the election of senators by region and extension of terms of office for local officials.

John Osmeña said he is amenable to the proposal of Sen. Franklin Drilon that Charter amendments be done through a Constitutional Convention.

The delegates for the Constitutional Convention, he added, would be elected simultaneous with the barangay elections next year.

Drilon, who won a re-election bid in the May 14 elections, planned to file a resolution during the opening of the new Congress next month calling for a Constitutional Convention.

He had said there was a "great" need to review the basic economic principles under the Constitution to make the country competitive in the world economy.

But Serge Osmeña said amending the Constitution at this time would only be divisive and a waste of money.

"The Charter change exercise will cost P4 to P8 billion, which the government cannot afford. This is not the time (for it)," he said. "We are in a deficit already, where will we look for the money?"

He also pointed out that the country's problem is economic and does not need a legal solution through Charter change.

But his cousin believed that the Constitution should be amended to make it more responsive to the people's needs.

John Osmeña said the people will be properly represented in the Senate if the senators are selected by region.

But Serge Osmeña said that if the senators were selected by region, they might only focus on the concerns of their region instead of the entire country.

John Osmeña said he favors extending the terms of office of local officials.

Instead of the current three-year-three term, he said, local officials should have a six-year term with only one re-election.

John Osmeña said he also wants the President and Vice President to be elected from one party, like in the United States, to ensure stability.

The election for national officials from the President down to congressmen should be held separately from the election for local officials, he added.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

4 wounded in blast

CEBU CITY—Four persons were hurt when a bomb exploded in a narrow alley in a Muslim community in Sitio Iba, Barangay Basak, Lapulapu City, Mactan Island about 5 a.m. yesterday.

The victims were identified as Munawara Rauring, 62 and vice president of a Muslim community in Sitio Iba; Andog Ampaso, 32; Malik Ampaso, 25 and Nasrodin Sumirado, 17, all relatives.

They were brought to the Don Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center in Cebu City and were declared out of danger.

Rauring's son, Corai, said he was driving his tricycle home when five men blocked his way.

He said one of the suspects poked a handgun at him without any provocation. Corai ran and sought the help of his father and relatives.

Rauring, Andog, Malik and Nasrodin went to the alley but when they arrived there, Corai said he heard an explosion.

Corai said a suspect also fired at the house of a certain Ampetus Hadji Sarip. ***Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Church plans tighter security for donations

BY ALEX V. PAL
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—An off-duty traffic enforcer arrested a 60-year-old widower whom he caught stealing money from an offering plate during Mass at the Dumaguete Cathedral on Sunday.

The suspect identified as Florencio Adanse, of Barangay Batinguel here, was released after spending 12 hours in jail because no one came to the Dumaguete City police station to file a complaint against him.

Agustin Patron, a city employee, was attending the 7 a.m. Mass at the Dumaguete Cathedral when he saw Adanse dipping his hands into the offering plate and taking money.

He told police that he failed to arrest Adanse immediately because the suspect ran after taking the money.

Patron said he searched for Adanse and finally found him at the public market, about four hours later with no more money in hand.

Patron admitted he had been observing Adanse, a shabbily dressed man who usually begs for alms in the church compound, after he heard stories from fellow churchgoers that the man has been pocketing money from the offering plate.

"I refused to believe those stories at first so I devoted the next two months to observing him as he would usually volunteer to help in the collection. I finally caught him in the act last Sunday," he said.

SPO2 Elipidio Canolas, officer in charge of the Dumaguete police station, said Adanse was released after no one came to file a formal complaint against him.

"The Church usually forgives (these thieves)," he said, recalling an incident several years ago when some children were caught stealing two boxes of coins from the church.

"They were also released because no one came forward to file charges," Canolas said.

Msgr. Merlin Logronio, Cathedral administrator, said they would rather devise ways to make their collection system more secure than send the culprits to jail.

He said under the current setup, the Church assigns one person to oversee the collection, but many other worshippers volunteer to help during collection time.

The ones who usually volunteer to help in the collection, he added, are those sitting next to the offering plate or bag.

Logronio said petty thievery is common in the Church. "Even our coin drop box was forced open one time by street kids. In that situation, what can we do? The most we can do is to drive them away and find ways of securing the Church's property," he said.

But Patron said he still has two more people in his watchlist, whom he also suspects of stealing money from the Church.

Asked why he does it, Patron said he couldn't stand the thought that thievery is being done inside the house of God. "I am a religious person," he said.

5,900 ha of farmland converted in Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Central Luzon lost 5,918 hectares of farmland on the heels of land-use conversion applications approved by the Department of Agrarian Reform and certified by other government agencies from 1994 to May this year.

At least 2,811 hectares of agricultural land in the region's six provinces have been converted for residential uses, a report from the DAR regional office here showed.

More than 1,000 hectares have gone to industrial projects.

Combined industrial, commercial and residential businesses have used 605 hectares.

The rest went to sole or mixed ventures in commercial, institutional and agro-industrial lands.

Land-use conversion was more widespread in Pampanga, covering 2,007 hectares largely for industries and commerce.

Bulacan, the province nearest to thickly populated Metro Manila, came second, converting nearly 80 percent of 1,154 hectares of farmland for residential purposes.

Tarlac, located north of Central Luzon, placed third, assigning almost 95 percent of its 999 hectares of agricultural land for housing areas.

Land converted in Bataan reached 961 hectares; in Nueva Ecija, 320 hectares, and in Zambales, 474.7 hectares.

But the Central Luzon chapter of the farmers group Pambansang Katipunan ng Makabayang Magbubukid expressed doubt over the DAR report, saying the figures appeared to have been "underreported" or "badly needing revision to make it (the report) at par with the truth of rampant conversion" in the region.

The PKMM said not less than 20,000 hectares have been legally and illegally converted, especially in Pampanga, Bulacan, Bataan and Nueva Ecija in the last 10 years.

"So many bureaucracies in (the) DAR's authority allow land-use conversion to further wreak havoc on the pro-landlord, pro-big business land reform program," said PKMM spokesperson Jose Cunanan.

DAR, as the agrarian reform law states, is primarily responsible for approving or disapproving the conversion of agricultural lands to preserve these for food production and for redistribution to agrarian reform beneficiaries.

However, other agencies like the agriculture, environment, trade and public works departments and the National Irrigation Administration, National Economic and Development Authority, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board and local governments are vested with powers to also classify lands.

Despite the devolution program under the Local Government Code, DAR officials still do much of the regulatory functions in the conversion of agricultural lands covering more than five hectares, DAR employees said.

Almost 80 percent of at least 120 local governments in Central Luzon have not yet finalized their land use plan even as municipal and city officials continue churning out resolutions approving shifts in land use, sources in the agriculture department said.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

More smuggled rice seized

BACOLOD CITY—Customs and police intelligence operatives seized on Friday another shipment of rice worth P5 million allegedly smuggled at the Bacolod Real Estate and Development Corp. (Bredco) port in this city.

About 5,000 sacks of imported rice were already loaded in seven 10-wheel trucks and trailers when intercepted inside the port area by customs officials and Philippine National Police operatives.

Customs and local officials led the seizure of the shipment.

The shipment arrived on board a barge, the "Como Singapore" that was earlier towed to the Bredco Port. The identities of the barge owner and the tugboat that towed it to the port were unknown.

On Thursday, about 1,500 sacks of imported rice worth P1.3 million loaded in two abandoned cargo trucks were also intercepted by the Bureau of Customs, also at the Bredco Port.

Supt. Tom Banas, PNP regional intelligence chief in Western Visayas, said the smuggled rice seized Thursday was believed to have come from Thailand.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

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‘Wherever the people are, the village will be’

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

(*First of two parts*)

THE YOUNG among the Aetas of Yamot gather around a sign of the Aeta group from where the tribal people drew strength during and after the Pinatubo eruption.
PHOTO FROM 'ERUPTION AND EXODUS...'

THEY wept not, for they believed that their village was not dead and buried. It would live in them. Wherever the people would go, there the village would be transplanted. This is what the Aetas of Yamot, a village at the foot of Mt. Pinatubo in Zambales, believed. This is what they had hoped would happen—and indeed it has come to be. Yamot, their home, is gone, buried in ash by the volcano that gave the world "the eruption of the century." But now, that village has risen triumphantly somewhere.

On June 15, 1991, the day of Mt. Pinatubo's deadliest eruption, a group of Aetas was keeping vigil on a hilly place called Tumangan when suddenly the heavens heaved and darkened then rained mud and solid particles. Aeta leaders raised the signal flags and sounded the bullhorns.

Then came an awesome sight—a stream of humanity shrouded in gray descending and fleeing for their lives. Somewhere a bus was waiting for them. Theirs was perhaps the most organized evacuation plan carried out during those dark, dreadful hours.

But these Aetas were special—they had long been organized and had prepared for the dreaded moment. It was, in fact, their group that first informed government scientists about their unusual observations of a mountain that they only knew as home and not as a sleeping volcano. Many people were incredulous at first. There had not been an eruption in 600 years and nothing about the last one had lived on in Aeta lore and legend.

Mother mountain

They only knew the mountain as a mother that suckled them. "*Diyan kami sumususo,*" says Fe "Epang" Domulot who was seven years old in 1991 and is now an outspoken school and community leader. (She won first prize and ₱25,000 in an essay contest on Mt. Pinatubo's eruption.) Somewhere in the heights was a huge boulder they called *Gayang*, which they believed was the dwelling place of God or Apo Namalyari. Whenever they prayed the *dororo*, they faced in that direction. The Gayang has since been dislodged from its perch and now forms part of the new landscape.

For the Aetas, the regular sulfur emissions were signs. White was the harbinger of plenty while black meant hardship, disease and hunger. Only after the April 1991 rumblings and meetings with the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology did the Aetas realize that they were living on the slopes of a volcano. "*Ang bundok na tinatawag naming* sulfur *ay isa palang bulkan.*"

Rock of refuge

During the commemoration of the 1991 eruption held on June 15 (which coincided with Phivolcs chief Raymundo Punongbayan's 64th birthday) three Aeta leaders shared how Yamot villagers emerged triumphant from the volcanic destruction. They also showed a moving documentary on how they grew in wisdom and strength. Among those present were the Franciscan nuns who had bravely walked with them for almost 20 years and have since moved to serve in other places.

Lakas (Lubos na Alyansa ng mga Katutubong Aeta ng Sambales), their organization and cooperative, was their rock of refuge, their *Gayang* so to speak. The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary who have been working with them for about 20 years helped them set it up. And so when the volcano started its threats, Lakas was there ready to lead the people to safety.

Two months before the June 1991 eruption, Epang said, the Aetas of Yamot had already moved to Ogik. They waited for the Phivolcs to tell them they could go home. Instead, they received evacuation instructions that they must move farther. By the end of May, they had moved four times and 20 kilometers away, always exceeding the distance set by volcanologists. By June 2 they were in Tumangan waiting for the worst.

June 12 was the first explosion. Recalls Epang: "On the night of June 14, we went to the highest area of Tumangan and saw fire in the mountain. They looked like shooting stars. Our parish priest came and told us to move outside the 40-km radius. Everything was dark. The trees had fallen, the tracks had been covered with ash. We simply followed the footprints of those ahead of us."

Their first stop was a school. But they had to move again because classes were starting. They moved farther to Sta. Cruz and after a few days there they had to go to Candelaria.

‘Showcase’

Then they received word that a high government official of the province wanted to meet with them. Because the Yamot Aetas were so organized, they were going to be presented as a "showcase." They felt insulted.

About 6,000 people lived in the so-called "Tent City" in Palauig at that time. "It was congested and dirty, there were not enough toilets and water. Flies were everywhere and there was an epidemic."

The Aetas of Yamot held a meeting and decided it was time to leave. But where" They asked: Must we always count on the government? What NGO here and abroad could we approach? (*Next: New paradise*)

Pinatubo eruption anniversary: Party for unspoken heroes

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE AETAS of Botolan, Zambales, who saw the initial signs of Mt. Pinatubo's unrest, and a Franciscan nun, who reported the tribal people's sightings to government volcanologists were honored Friday on the 10th anniversary of the volcano's largest explosion.

"The world got to know about Mt. Pinatubo's reawakening because of the Aetas and Sister Emma. Their timely reporting helped us (respond to the) volcanic eruption," Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan, director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, said during a program commemorating the 1991 eruption.

The program, held at the Phivolcs auditorium in Diliman, Quezon City, gathered about 100 leaders from government and non-government agencies involved in rescue and relief operations and rehabilitation programs in the Mt. Pinatubo provinces of Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales.

Sr. Emma Fondevilla, the Franciscan sister who reported to Punongbayan on April 4, 1991, did not want to take glory.

"*Nagkataon lang na ako.* The Aeta leaders were busy putting their people to safety," she said.

"Our action during those times was by divine guidance. I would like to give credit to our *katutubong kapatid* (indigenous brethren) because of their communion with nature. They know what is ordinary and extraordinary," she told the INQUIRER.

Women's role

Fondevilla said it was the women of Makinang, Taraw, Yamot and other villages on the upper flanks of Pinatubo who went down on April 2 to report the frequent tremors and black smoke.

The women had to do the reporting because the men were in the village of Poonbato holding a meeting at the convent of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary there, Fondevilla, 56, said.

Gripped by fear, the children and the women were coming down in trickles first to Villar and then to Poonbato villages.

"It helped that the Aetas of Botolan were organized in 1987. It was a great help that they have an organization before the eruption," she said.

The organization, the Lubos na Alyansa ng mga Katutubo ng Sambales (Lakas), began the evacuation after they saw the Maraunot River turn muddy and its waters hot.

Odd things

Its leaders decided it was necessary to report to Phivolcs the odd things they saw because many live around the volcano, especially in the lowlands, according to Ben Jugatan, then the Lakas chair.

Fondevilla and Flor de la Cruz, an Aeta, wasted no time. On April 4, as early as 2:30 a.m., they boarded the first bus to Quezon City.

At 8 a.m. the two were talking to Punongbayan at his Phivolcs office, reporting exactly what the Aetas saw.

"There was this black band (of smoke) on a horizontal position. This was something ominous and that there was an impending real danger," she recalled telling Punongbayan.

"Immediately, he took our word. He was swift and decisive, formed a QRT (quick response team) that on that hour left for Zambales," she said.

By April 5, the Phivolcs team reached Yamot, some 10 kilometers from the summit, recording there more than 4,000 high frequency tremors.

"What we had was a meaningful collaboration with the Phivolcs," Fondevilla said during the program.

Punongbayan, the INQUIRER's Filipino of the Year in 1992, did not also want to take credit.

The Phivolcs, he said, issued timely and correct warnings because of its tie-up with the United States Geological Sciences, primarily with Dr. Christopher Newhall.

And everything else was history.

Long sleep

In 10 weeks, Mt. Pinatubo woke to life again after about 600 years of slumber.

The June 15 blast emitted seven cubic kilometers of volcanic sediments, killed not less than 300 people, displaced 1.3 million residents, buried 98,600 hectares of farms and damaged some P4-billion worth of public and private infrastructure.

Ten years later, the tribe that told the world that an eruption was in the offing could not yet return to its old villages.

Lahar was still thick in the area, making it impossible to revive the farms, Jugatan said.

"It's sad that we cannot yet return. We always pine for our old home," he, said.

Jugatan said the good thing after the tragedy is that there are more Aeta young people who are able to finish school.

Last March, four Aetas finished college while 30 completed high school.

To make the young people remember their indigenous culture, the old villages, the exodus and Apo Namalyari—the deity who watches over the volcano and the people there—Lakas mounted the play "Pinatubo: Pagsabog, Paglalakbay, Pagbangon (Eruption, Journey and Rising)."

It took the whole village the entire month of April to write and stage the one-hour production.

The play, documented on video, was shown during the program.

Since 1992, Jugatan's tribe has lived in Bihawo in Botolan, reconstructing their lives by tilling available plots in a land Lakas bought on a grant.

"*Bumangon na sila sa abo ng kahirapan dulot ng pagsabog ng bulkang* Pinatubo (They have risen from the ash of poverty caused by Mt. Pinatubo's eruption)," Jugatan said.

Leadership crisis hounds Misuari, MNLF

COTABATO CITY—A leadership crisis continues to hound the Moro National Liberation Front as thousands of its members and supporters gathered at the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao compound here to express support for their beleaguered leader, Nur Misuari.

Mahendra Madjilon, ARMM media bureau chief, said the gathering of some 50,000 people showed that ARMM Gov. Misuari is still the legitimate chair of the MNLF.

Misuari, the MNLF founding chair, has been "ousted" by the MNLF Executive Council and elevated as a figure head of the Moro front. He was named as MNLF chair emeritus on April 29.

Abdulrahman Hussin, MNLF deputy chair for foreign affairs, led the 15-member Executive Council that criticized Misuari for his failure to improve the lives of Bangsamoro people and his constant travel abroad, living behind his primary duty of working for the betterment of his people.

Loss of confidence on Misuari's ability to pursue the cause of the MNLF allegedly forced its leaders to break away and form the executive council.

"All major decisions concerning the MNLF and its people will now emanate from the executive council," said MNLF secretary general Muslimin Sema.

Sema, reelected Cotabato City mayor, said Misuari was not "ejected" from the MNLF but elevated to the position of "chairman emeritus."

After the executive council was formed, Misuari sacked his deputies and replaced them with those who are still loyal to him. Sema was replaced by Murshi Ibrahim as MNLF secretary general.

The executive council still recognizes Sema as the MNLF secretary general.

Misuari, named special envoy of President Macapagal to the Organization of Islamic Conference, also declared June 18 as Bangsamoro Armed Forces Day.

Police and military authorities confiscated an undetermined number of firearms from uniformed MNLF members who carry firearms as they enter the ARMM compound.

Anti-Misuari groups within the MNLF also distributed a memorandum issued by ARMM Executive Secretary Abdulrahman Amin to ARMM line agencies.

The memo requires a 10 percent contribution from the agency's maintenance, operating and other expenses to the ARMM common fund, which the anti-Misuari faction claimed was used in today's gathering.

The day-long affair, aired over three radio stations and two local TV stations here, "is but a last-ditch effort to project grassroot support (for) a leader in crisis," said Usman Ali who claimed to be a Bangsamoro professional.

"It was an apparent bid to buy loyalties from MNLF officers and combatants," he said.

Madjilon said the issues presented during the congress will be brought to the 28th Islamic Conference of foreign ministers in Mali, Africa on June 24.

The assembly passed a resolution addressed to the OIC and the Philippine government. Among them was one urging the OIC to give full membership status to the MNLF, which currently enjoys observer status, and another for the government to fully implement the 1996 peace accord and rehabilitate Mindanao.

While the Misuari faction of the MNLF gathered here, officials who bolted the MNLF had been consolidating grassroots support for the Executive Council of 15 members.

Over the weekend, it held a day-long strategic policy direction workshop in Cotabato City. A series of meeting with other leaders of the MNLF was also held in Eastern, Central and Western Mindanao.

A similar gathering was held in Zamboanga City on April 29-30, wherein the participants passed several resolutions, one of which was their demand for the government to establish in Mindanao a Bangsamoro Republic with Misuari as its first president. *Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Gov seeks disarmament of MILF

DAVAO CITY—North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said if the peace talks succeeded, he will press for the total disarmament of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to prevent its disgruntled members from forming another group like the Abu Sayyaf.

Piñol said total disarmament should be done if the MILF enters into a peace agreement with the government because it would save Mindanao from endless troubles.

"Based on experience, I am suspecting that MILF (members), if disgruntled by the peace accord, (could) organize) another group or join the Abu Sayyaf," Piñol said.

He said it should be the last position that should be taken by the government if the MILF would finally agree to a peace accord.

While he is aware that the laying down of arms would be a difficult demand of government for the MILF, Piñol said it is the only solution to prevent the birth of another armed organization.

Piñol said some disgruntled members of the Moro National Liberation Front, which signed a peace agreement with the government in 1996, later joined the MILF.

"So what would prevent the disgruntled members of the MILF from forming a new revolutionary front or joining another armed group should they be allowed to hold on to their firearms? The Abu Sayyaf would only be too willing to accept them," he said.

Peace talks between the government and the MILF will formally open on June 20 in Tripoli, Libya. The government's negotiating panel was expected to leave today for the formal opening.
Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau

INCREASED PATROLS

Cops keep watch on cocaine trade

CAMP ADDURU, Tuguegarao City—Police officials have ordered an intensified watch over Cagayan's coastline and islands following reports that shipments of cocaine have been smuggled into the province through Camiguin Island.

Chief Supt. Dominador Resos, Cagayan Valley police director, said police recently confiscated cocaine bricks on Camiguin Island and nearby islands in northern Cagayan.

Resos said a drug syndicate on Camiguin was "neutralized" following the recent police operation that foiled the smuggling of illegal drugs in Sta. Ana town.

The operation yielded two bricks of cocaine weighing 2,094.93 grams, according to a report of Senior Supt. Albert Garcia, Cagayan provincial intelligence officer.

"After shabu, here comes cocaine. Drug traffickers are finding ways to develop their illegal trade," Resos said.

Two suspects, Absalon Tobias and Armando Soriano, who yielded a .38 cal. pistol and a hand grenade when they were arrested, are facing charges of violations of the Dangerous Drugs Act and of illegal possession of firearms.

"Continuous operations in the area proved to be beneficial. We foiled the emergence of a new group, the Camiguin Gang," Resos said.

He confirmed that the Philippine National Police's laboratory examination of the confiscated illegal drugs on Camiguin Island was the first positive identification of cocaine coming from northern Cagayan since a massive anti-illegal drug operation was launched there in 1998 and 1999.

Resos said the recent confiscation could be "just the tip of the iceberg" as police intelligence reports showed that more cocaine bricks were being smuggled into the province.

Police have been patrolling Cagayan's northern seas with speedboats to pursue suspected Taiwanese and Chinese syndicates involved in the illegal drug trade, human smuggling and poaching.

The sea patrols were intensified after Taiwanese and Chinese fishermen were reported to be illegally entering the country via the Calayan and Batanes group of islands. Police seized more than 200 kilos of shabu, worth P1.2 billion, on Camiguin, the premier island of the Calayan group of islands in Sta. Ana, in 1998.

After the shabu haul, police seized 17 drums of chloroform, a chemical substance used in the manufacture of shabu, and 25 containers of chemicals in Barangay Balatubat on Camiguin Island. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

RP to send representatives to OIC meet

DAVAO CITY—The government will send representatives to the meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference in Mali, Libya, next week.

Government chief negotiator Jesus Dureza said President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo might send presidential adviser on the peace process Edgardo Ermita to the OIC meeting where the peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front would be discussed.

But Dureza clarified that the OIC has not made any official offer to mediate in the talks like it did for the Moro National Liberation Front.

At the multi-sectoral consultation at the Woodridge Country Club here on Friday, some sectors have questioned the participation of Libya in the peace talks between the government and the MILF.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said he does not see any reason to hold the talks outside the Philippines.

"It is embarrassing on our part because it looks like we don't know how to solve our problem. But I know the venue is the President's call," Piñol said.

Dureza said the role of Libya, a member of the OIC, is only to host the opening ceremony of the formal peace negotiations. It is hosting the talks not as a member of the OIC.

"Now that we have another negotiation with the MILF, Libya seems to want part of the action by playing *ninong*," he said. *Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon, Northern Cagayan including Calayan, Zambales and Benguet will experience rains and gusty winds with moderate to rough seas. The rest of Western Luzonand Batanes will have widespread rains, while the rest of Luzon and the Western section of Visayas will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 30° Lo 24°	Baguio Hi 21° Lo 14°	Tuguegarao Hi 29° Lo 21°	Laoag Hi 30° Lo 25°
Clark Zone Hi 30° Lo 23°	Tagaytay Hi 29° Lo 20°	Legazpi Hi 31° Lo 24°	Calapan Hi 29° Lo 23°
Bacolod Hi 29° Lo 24°	Roxas Hi 29° Lo 25°	Cebu Hi 31° Lo 25°	Tacloban Hi 34° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos Hi 31° Lo 24°	Zamboanga Hi 33° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 32° Lo 22°	Davao Hi 31° Lo 24°

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GMA forays into bandits' stronghold

(From page A1)

the government was doing everything possible to get Malonzo's daughter back alive.

"I know we are not capable of immediately bringing back the atmosphere of peace and calm that has been shattered here," she told residents during the two-hour visit. "I ask for sacrifice and apologize."

Later, speaking before reporters at the Mansion House of the Armed Forces' Southern Command in this city, the President summed up the "effectiveness of the unceasing military operations and the no-ransom policy of the government."

She said key population centers in Basilan—Lamitan, Tuburan, Tipo-Tipo, Lantawan and Maluso—had been secured and the positions of the Abu Sayyaf pinpointed despite the vast terrain.

"We shall keep the strategy of continuous pressure," she declared. "We shall not surrender the combat initiative to the enemy."

Ms Macapagal said the position of the government could not be compromised despite attempts of the Abu Sayyaf to negotiate by promising the release of more hostages.

She was referring to a letter delivered to her Saturday by freed hostage Francis Ganzon, the contents of which Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya reiterated in another call to Radio Mindanao Network yesterday afternoon. *(See story on Page A1.)*

"We shall not relax our guard," Ms Macapagal said, adding that the government had the support of the international community.

"I have to do what I have to do, and operations must continue," she said.

She noted that negotiations for ransom would only bring about "the Sipadan syndrome"—a reference to last year's hostage crisis wherein the Abu Sayyaf received hundreds of millions of pesos in exchange for the release of mostly European tourists abducted from a Malaysian island.

The President later flew to Puerto Princesa City, where she said the May 27 kidnappings at the Dos Palmas resort underscored the need for the modernization of the Armed Forces.

"One reason the bandits were not caught immediately after the abductions is the ships of the Philippine Navy are already old. If the bandits have a boat that runs 40 knots, our boats run only 18 knots. Do you know that those vessels (date back to) the term of my father (President Diosdado Macapagal)?"

Soldiers

Earlier, the President visited the Southcom hospital to meet with soldiers and civilian volunteers wounded during the military operations in Basilan and Sulu.

She distributed medals and citations to the soldiers who occupied two wards of the hospital, including the intensive care unit.

There was a fiesta-like atmosphere in Lamitan, where the President, accompanied by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and officials including Interior Secretary Joey Lina, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, was welcomed by Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar and Mayor Inocente Ramos.

She met with local officials and military and police commanders, and handed a P2-million check to parish priest Fr. Cirilo Nacorda for the rehabilitation of the bullet-riddled church.

Ms Macapagal then proceeded to the Lamitan Claret Elementary School to present scholarship grants and financial help to victims of the siege and their relatives.

In a speech, she extolled the bravery of the soldiers and civilians of Lamitan, promised justice for all the victims of the siege, and said the government would not stop in its efforts to rehabilitate the town and the whole of Basilan.

The President then had a closed-door meeting with the Basilan Crisis Management Committee headed by Akbar.

No ransom

In Zamboanga, the President denied that ransom was paid for the release of hostages Ganzon and Kimberly Jao Uy.

She said she had not received reports that the hostages' relatives were secretly negotiating with the bandits.

"We don't know that for a fact. We discourage them, and we'll not support their efforts," she said.

She dismissed reports that the military "allowed" the Abu Sayyaf bandits to escape the military cordon in Lamitan, and denied that the military withdrew the troops instead of engaging the bandits in battle.

"These are rumors," she said, adding that the military would investigate the matter.

"As in any operation, there is a postmortem assessment of what happened. Of course they will look into it," she said.

The President said she had directed AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva to relentlessly pursue the bandit group.

Villanueva himself said the military had an "an adequate force to combat the extremists."

Ms Macapagal also said the government had sufficient funds for the war effort in Basilan and Sulu. But she refused to give figures.

In Puerto Princesa, the President said it was time to implement the AFP's modernization program, "so that things like this do not happen again."

She met with the families of Armando Bayona and Sonny Dacquer, security guard and cook at Dos Palmas, whom the bandits had killed.

She also made sure that Dos Palmas would employ Jovelyn, Dacquer's pregnant wife, as part of the resort's help to the families of the victims.

In a speech before more than 1,000 residents, Ms Macapagal noted that "it is not only the people that the Abu Sayyaf has taken hostage, but Palawan's tourism as well."

Perez

In his call to RMN, Sabaya asked for Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to serve as a negotiator and for the government to call off the military operations.

The proposal was apparently included in the letter that Ganzon delivered to Ms Macapagal, but her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the letter included other names.

"We agree to renegotiate the release of the hostages," Sabaya told RMN in Taglish. "Perhaps it's not too late. There are still many lives that the government has to save."

He added: "If Nani Perez joins the talks—of course, with the stopping of the military operations, for after all, how can Nani Perez enter with the military there?—we promise to release some of the hostages."

Perez told RMN that he would consult with Ms Macapagal and that he did not know why Sabaya specified him.

"I was really surprised by the request," he said. "I don't know whether the President will agree."

Asked if he was ready to negotiate, Perez said: "Yes, with permission from the President." But he said he wanted to speak with the Abu Sayyaf personally, and not by phone. ***With reports from Geraldford P. Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; AP***

Who's Stef Saño?

(From page A1)

paid to the bandits?

These questions cropped up after Stef Saño, an associate of Aventajado, appeared in the INQUIRER'S banner photo on Sunday with two of the recently freed Dos Palmas hostages, 50-year-old Francis Ganzon and teener Kimberly Jao Uy.

Saño, who was at the extreme right of the photo, was not named in the caption.

Yesterday, Stef was mentioned in the INQUIRER'S banner story as the alleged "courier," of the Uy family along with someone named Jorge, of the P5 million paid for the release of Uy.

Stef and Jorge were described in the report of the PDI Mindanao Bureau as having come from Camp Crame, the national headquarters of the Philippine National Police.

In a phone interview, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said Saño was in the waiting area of the Villamor Air Base when the plane carrying Ganzon and Uy arrived at 5:25 p.m. last Saturday.

With Ganzon and Uy was Ustadz Muhaymin Sahi Latip, a Muslim who tried to negotiate for the release of the hostages but was in turn taken captive himself.

"He had been there for about 30 minutes before the plane landed," Golez said of Saño.

Golez, however, said he was not sure whether Saño was there for either the Ganzon or Uy family.

Saño was seen in a "huddle" with Teresa Ganzon, wife of the hostage, at the time the plane landed at the air base.

Last year, about $21 million changed hands during the Sipadan hostage crisis in which Aventajado, then flagship projects adviser to then President Joseph Estrada, served as the chief government negotiator with the Abu Sayyaf.

Before Uy and Ganzon's release, there had been reports that ransom money was paid in exchange for the freedom of the hostages who were able to "escape." Among them were construction magnate Reghis Romero II, his female companion and 9-year-old RJ Recio.

Saño yesterday denied that he was involved in the release of the hostages or the payment of ransom.

"Why am I being dragged into this," Saño said when reached by the INQUIRER for comment.

He said he was being linked to the rumors of ransom payments because of his previous connection with Aventajado.

Saño admitted he worked for Aventajado's party-list group Bagong Bayani but this was after the Sipadan hostage crisis

Bagong Bayani, which represents overseas contract workers, received enough votes in the May 14 elections, giving Aventajado a seat in the House of Representatives. As of press time, Aventajado could not be reached for comment.

Bantay OCW anchor

Saño, the anchor of "Bantay OCW," which airs from 12 noon to 2 p.m. over RMN Manila every day, said he had nothing to do with the Sipadan negotiations either.

"Yes, I worked as consultant but I was never on his (Aventajado) payroll. I have no involvement in the Sipadan (case) or this one. Totally zero. I was never involved," Saño said.

"Some people are merely making one-plus-one speculations here," Saño said.

During the Estrada administration, Saño was a member of the board of directors of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Miriam and Bongbong staff

Saño reportedly played a significant role in the near victory of Miriam Defensor Santiago in the 1992 presidential elections.

In the 1995 elections, Saño worked for Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. who ran for senator but lost.

Saño had also worked sometime in the 1980s at the Bureau of Customs where he was associated with Jorge Baviera. Saño and Baviera were known as activists during the Marcos regime.

It was not clear whether Jorge Baviera is the same Jorge who allegedly acted as "courier."

Not government negotiator

Golez stressed that Saño was not acting as a government-sanctioned negotiator.

"I should know," Golez said when pressed to elaborate.

Golez said that while he was familiar with the name of Saño as the latter was involved in several "projects," the national security adviser was not aware that Saño was an associate of Aventajado.

Asked if P5 million was indeed paid for Uy's release, Golez said: "I don't know about that."

Saño said he was at Villamor only to meet Rey Bayoging, station manager of RMN Zamboanga (dxRZ), upon instructions of RMN assistant vice president Bobby Ante.

Saño explained that Bayoging had informed RMN Manila that he was on the plane carrying the freed hostages to Manila for their meeting with the President and that he wanted someone to guide him in Manila.

"I was looking for him but I could not find him. It turned out that he was left behind inside the plane after the hostages had deplaned," Saño said.

The plane was dispatched by the President to fetch the freed hostages.

Saño and Ante both said in separate interviews that they did not know why Bayoging was on the plane.

"That is what I do not know," Saño said. But he noted that Bayoging was the one who interviewed Ganzon.

"I have no (information) why he (Bayoging) was there. I was surprised myself," Ante said.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao noted that Bayoging and former broadcaster Dodi Lacuna were on the plane.

Malacañang had disapproved of RMN's exclusive interviews with Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya.

But Ante defended Bayoging, saying he was just doing his job as a media man.

Tiglao did not offer an explanation for the presence of Saño at the Villamor Air Base.

Tiglao said Malacañang had no information about private individuals who were involved in the release of Uy, Ganzon and Latip.

"We cannot verify (this). The intelligence services are of course trying to verify . . . We have to emphasize we do not cooperate nor condone efforts of private individuals to mediate," Tiglao said.

He stressed that the government was not sanctioning negotiations for the release of the hostages in exchange for ransom.

In a briefing, the spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines said the military was not aware of any ransom payments paid for either Ganzon or Uy.

"We don't know anything about the conditions for their release," said Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan.

Adan, however, said they believed that Ganzon was released so that he could air a message from Sabaya.

Adan noted that Ganzon had spoken over RMN to announce that the bandits were willing to release the remaining hostages if the government allowed two Malaysian negotiators to talk to them.

All because of craving for Coke

(From page A1)

Ahmad Salayyudin alias Abu Sabaya for a Coke.

"We told him, 'Abu Sabaya, *matagal na tayong hindi nakainom ng* Coke (we haven't drunk Coke for a long time).' *Sabi niya, 'sige uminom tayo ng* Coke (He said 'let's drink Coke),'" Ganzon said in an interview with Radio Mindanao Network on Saturday.

On that same night (June 1), Ganzon said, Sabaya declared: "*Bababa tayo sa Lamitan dahil may* Coke *doon* (We will go down to Lamitan because there's Coke there)."

Rented jeep

"We rented a jeep, and in the cover of darkness, we entered the hospital," Ganzon said.

It was not clear if the Jose Torres Memorial Hospital had Coke.

The bandits also entered the adjacent St. Peter's Church.

Fierce fighting between government soldiers and the bandits broke out in the early morning of June 2. But when night came, the bandits and their hostages escaped without a fight.

Four of the 20 original Dos Palmas hostages escaped. The bandits, however, seized five more people at the hospital.

The next morning, the bodies of an altar boy and two soldiers lay outside the St. Peter's Church, which was also riddled with bullets.

"This is a disaster," was how Lamitan parish priest Cirilo Nacorda described the church.

The bandits burned four houses as they fled.

The military's ground and air assault also damaged at least 15 houses. All because the hostages wanted to drink Coke.

Robot not in Ilocos

In Baguio City, outgoing Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson called up a radio station from Ilocos Sur on Monday to clarify a report about the alleged presence of Abu Sayyaf leader Ghalib Andang, also known as Kumander Robot, in Northern Luzon.

Singson, during a morning broadcast of RPN radio dzBS, dismissed reports that Andang had been sighted in Ilocos Sur.

"*Ang nandito si Atchang, wala dito si Andang* (The person here is Atchang, not Andang)," Singson said in reaction to a report by a local daily that Andang was in Ilocos.

The daily quoted sources in its headline on Monday about clandestine meetings between Singson and Andang and separate meetings between Singson and outgoing Abra Board Member Ernesto Pacuño Sr.

Pacuño, popularly known as "Dragon," helped then government negotiator Robert Aventajado broker the release of the hostages that the Abu Sayyaf seized last year from the Malaysian diving report of Sipadan.

The Baguio report implied Singson was about to take over Pacuño's role to deal with the remaining seven of the bandit group's 20 hostages who were abducted in a May 27 raid on the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan.

Singson claimed last week that Andang had offered to "return to the fold of the law" with several of his men but only in the governor's presence.

Two national newspapers reported on Monday that a source was claiming that Andang was already in Singson's custody.

Singson said Andang had chosen him as mediator because he was an Ilocano like Pacuño.

"There are a lot of Ilocanos in Mindanao, so (Andang) called me up . . Pacuño helped (in the Sipadan crisis) and that is why Andang tapped me. He was the one who called and I thought, maybe, I can help now because all of us are affected by (the crisis in Mindanao)," the governor said.

In the middle of the radio interview, Singson brushed aside reports that Andang was offering government half of his loot from previous kidnap-for-ransom operations in exchange for amnesty from prosecution.

"*Wala, wala* . . . (No, no)," Singson muttered when the news reports were mentioned.

"Andang never even used the word surrender. He said he was returning to the fold of the law," he said in Filipino. ***With a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Abu letter surfaces amid talk of ransom

(From page A1)

gotiator William Castillo to "relay to the Abu Sayyaf the receipt of the letter and to tell them that Mr. Castillo will be talking to them about this," Tiglao told reporters.

"We have informed them that Mr. Castillo has received the letter and (wants) to talk to them," he said.

The letter merely opened with the salutation "Greetings," and was signed by an Abu Sayyaf leader whom Tiglao declined to identify.

"The letter wasn't addressed specifically to the President, who was quite curious," he added.

Tiglao said that letter spoke of the release of two hostages, presumably referring to Ganzon and Kimberly Jao Uy, who both belonged to the original group of captives seized from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan.

'Mediators'

Tiglao said the Abu Sayyaf letter used the word "mediators" when it talked about reopening negotiations.

Early in the crisis, the President appointed Castillo to negotiate with the group, which abducted three Americans and 17 Filipinos from Dos Palmas and later, 15 more plantation workers in Basilan.

Tiglao disclosed the letter when reporters asked him about Castillo's progress, if any.

Ms Macapagal had called off talks last Tuesday, saying the outlaws' earlier demand for Malaysian mediators had become "academic" after Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya announced that his group had beheaded Californian Guillermo Sobero.

'Losing control'

Senators warned the Macapagal administration that it seemed to be losing control of the hostage crisis judging from reports of ransom being paid by hostages' families.

In separate interviews, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, head of the Senate panel on national defense and security, and Minority leader Sen. Renato Cayetano, said the government should ensure the implementation of its no-ransom policy.

"A no-ransom policy should not only mean 'no ransom being paid by the government,' it should mean 'no ransom being paid by anyone,'" Biazon said in a telephone interview.

He noted that relatives of the victims would not be able to establish contact with the terrorists if the government were in control of the situation.

"Contact can only be made because the government is not in control," he said.

"I think that the government has lost control over the situation," Biazon added.

Blind eye

But he raised the possibility that the government was merely turning a blind eye to ransom deals in order to lessen the number of hostages.

"There cannot be negotiations that government is not aware of," he said.

Cayetano agreed that the persistent but unverified reports of ransom payments indicated that the government is "losing the battle" in trying to stick to its no-ransom policy.

He admitted, however, that it was probably impossible for the government to keep hostages' relatives from paying for the freedom of their loved ones since "the primary interest of the families of the victims is their safety and they will do everything to ensure that."

Military now presumes Abu killed Sobero

(From page A1)

Hussin Manatad, yesterday said Janjalani called him at 4 p.m. Saturday to say that he was alive and that they should not believe rumors of his death.

The AFP had previously claimed that Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya was bluffing when he announced on June 12 that his group had beheaded the 40-year-old Sobero as an "Independence Day gift" to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Adan said the US Embassy in Manila had been informed of the matter. Asked if Sobero's family in Corona, California, had likewise been informed, he said: "The embassy will take care of that."

But the US Embassy said it had yet to "independently confirm" the death of the American.

"We have no proof of Mr. Sobero's state," embassy spokesperson Michael Anderson said.

Anderson noted that "no remains have been identified as (Sobero's)," and that there was "no independent source that witnessed his execution."

"As we have said before, the murder of an innocent person is a cowardly act. We continue to hold the Abu Sayyaf responsible for the safety and welfare of all the people it is holding," Anderson said.

In California, Sobero's brother Alberto told the Associated Press that he had not heard from anyone about Adan's statement.

"We are going to have to figure out what to do next," Alberto said. "We still have to talk to the State Department and the (Federal Bureau of Investigation). That's all I have to say now."

Wounded

Adan said civilian groups in Basilan had been asked to help find the body of Sobero, one of three Americans taken by the Abu Sayyaf on May 27 from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan.

Sobero was supposedly wounded in his right leg when the bandit group engaged government forces in a firefight in Lamitan, Basilan, on June 1.

"It appears that Mr. Sobero was diabetic because despite the antibiotics administered to him by the nurses in Lamitan, his wound did not heal," Adan said. "He was also on self-medication from the time he left Palawan."

Adan said Sobero had been injecting himself, presumably with insulin, during the long boat trip from the resort to Basilan, but that he ran out of medicine and started shaking.

Adan said the other American hostages, missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, were believed to be surviving fairly well under the circumstances.

He cited Ganzon's statement that "the Burnhams' faith has kept them strong."

He said Martin Burnham was reported to be nursing back wounds but otherwise had "no serious injuries."

The hostages were said to be eating rice and occasionally got coconuts with brown sugar, small dried fish and a tin of sardines.

Adan said troops were "closing in" on the bandits yesterday. "The vegetation is very dense and the terrain is muddy, and the bandits have their diversionary attacks to mislead their true location," he said.

At his regular briefing yesterday, Adan said a 15-minute clash between the bandits and members of the Navy's Special Warfare Group occurred at 4:30 p.m. Saturday in Mara-Marang in the capital city of Isabela.

There were no government casualties, he said. The soldiers recovered from the site of the clash an M-16 rifle, four ammunition magazines, a radio, two backpacks and a bag containing personal effects.

'Very much alive'

According to Adan, Ganzon related that Janjalani was with the gunmen holding him and other hostages before he and teenager Kimberly Jao Uy were released last week.

'(Ganzon) saw Janjalani very much alive, with no wounds or injuries," Adan said. "That is why we do not want to confirm statements that Janjalani is dead."

Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin also quoted Manatad as telling him that Janjalani was alive.

"Manatad told me that Khadaffy called at around 4 p.m. last Saturday informing them that he is alive. I don't know if after 4 p.m. he was killed," Salapuddin told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Earlier, Akbar said he had received reports that Janjalani was killed in a clash in Tuburan town after the bandits fled Lamitan on June 2.

"Of course, we need to see the body first. We were planning to unearth the reported burial site. But because of the military operations in the area, we cancelled our plans," Akbar told the INQUIRER. ***With reports from Rocky Nazareno; Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AP***

Perez: Too late to file charges against Joma

(From page A1)

ant of the National Democratic Front has denied many times.

Salonga himself acknowledged the time lapse in an interview with the INQUIRER last week. But he said he was no longer interested in pursuing the perpetrators of the bombing that left him blind in his left eye and deaf in one ear.

"As I said, I have already forgiven those responsible for this," he said.

Salonga recalled that Sen. John Osmeña, another survivor of the Plaza Miranda tragedy, delivered a privilege speech in the late 1980s calling for an investigation of Sison's alleged involvement.

In late 1989, two Senate committees, chaired by then Sen. Wigberto Tañada, were tasked to conduct the probe, but it was aborted after a few months of hearing because of a coup attempt that December.

No conclusion

Now a Quezon congressman, Tañada yesterday declined to comment on the possible outcome of the Senate inquiry, had it been completed.

"I did not come to any conclusion or recommendation because we were not able to finish the investigation," the nationalist lawmaker said in an interview in Lucena City.

But he admitted hearing of several reports then linking Sison to the Plaza Miranda bombing. "*Matagal nang napapag-usapan yan* (that's the persistent talk)," he said.

He recalled that the persistent reports were among the reasons why the Senate opened the investigation.

"It was based mostly on those reports now being mentioned by Senator Salonga in his book. But there are other witnesses whose testimony we were not able to hear because of the pressing events that followed," he said.

Added pressure

He confirmed Salonga's account of why the inquiry was aborted. "The coup attempts disrupted our scheduled committee hearings on the matter. Then the contentious issue of the US bases came in, followed by the change of chamber leadership in the Senate, which also resulted in the change of committee chairmanship in the Senate," Tañada said. He said he did not know why the blue ribbon committee did not resume the investigation.

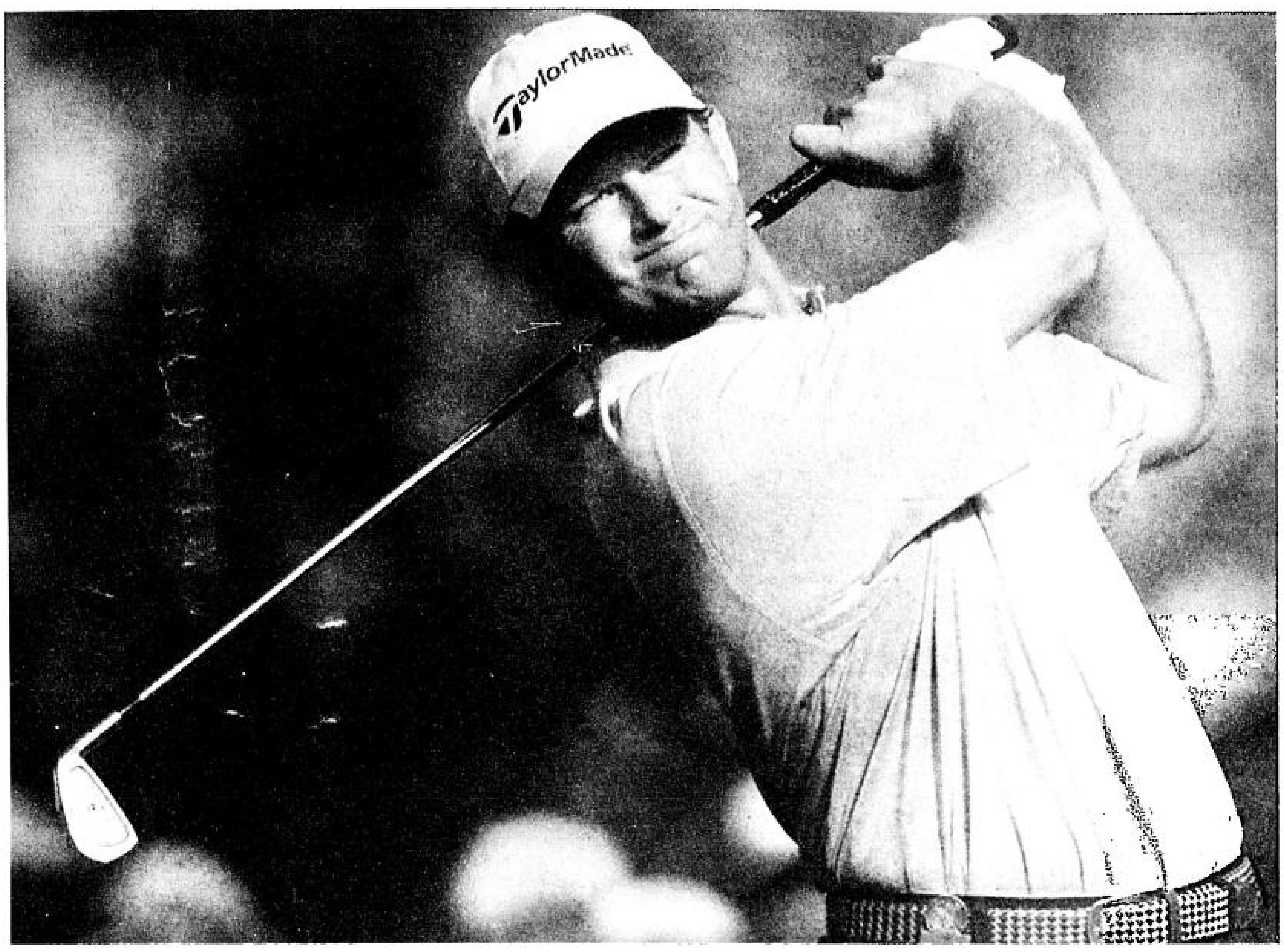
Tañada avoided recommending that the incoming Senate reopen the inquiry. "I will leave that up to the incoming Senate to decide. It all now depends on them," he added.

He said all the records and the complete transcripts of witnesses' depositions are intact and that "the new Senate can again call the previous witnesses to appear before them since most of the senators are new."

However, the congressman pointed a new investigation "may put added pressure on the ongoing peace talks" between the government and the NDF. ***With a report from Armand N. Nocum***

US OPEN

Goosen, Brooks set up 18-hole playoff



GOOSEN: Big miscue on No. 18 makes him miss winning the US Open outright. AP

TULSA, Oklahoma —One short stroke away from claiming the US Open, Retief Goosen buckled under the stifling pressure and missed a 2-foot (60-centimeter) par putt on the 18th green that tied him with Mark Brooks and set up a Monday playoff.

Goosen, trying to go wire-to-wire Sunday for his first major championship, needed only two putts from 12 feet (3.6 meters) away. Instead, he rapped the first one 2 feet (60 centimeters) past the hole, and the par putt coming back missed badly to the right.

Brooks earlier three-putted the 18th from 40 feet (12 meters) to make bogey and seemingly blow his chance to win the US Open.

"I don't know what happened on the second putt," Goosen said. "It's golf, you know. Tomorrow is another day."

There should never have been a tomorrow in this case. Instead, the US Open will be decided by an 18-hole playoff, the first in seven years.

It wasn't quite as wild as Jean Van de Velde taking triple bogey to squander the British Open at Carnoustie in 1999, but it was no less shocking.

Lost in the drama was Tiger Woods, who was long gone and his incredible streak of four straight majors ended.

He shot a 69 and finished in a tie for 12th. Asked if it was the most disappointed he had been after a major in a long time, Woods said, "Considering I won the last four, yes."

Goosen's three-putt gave him a 71 and left him and Brooks at 276. Brooks closed with a 70.

It will be the first 18-hole playoff in the US Open since 1994, when Ernie Els defeated Loren Roberts and Colin Montgomerie at Oakmont.

"I look forward to tomorrow," said Goosen, a soft-spoken South African. "I'm not worried at all."

Save some sympathy for Stewart Cink.

He was tied for the lead with Goosen at 5 under when they came to the 18th, where no major champion at Southern Hills has ever made a par or better.

Cink figured his hopes for an Open victory were doomed when he missed the green long, chipped to 15 feet (4.5 meters) and the par putt just slid by the edge of the cup on the left.

He could have marked, but it's a professional courtesy to let the likely champion—Goosen looked like a lock - have the final putt.

Cink proceeded to push the 18-inch (46-centimeter) bogey putt. A few minutes later, that cost him a spot on the playoff.

Brooks, who won the '96 PGA Championship in a sudden-death playoff, and Goosen will return to Southern Hills on Monday for one final round of stroke play.

If nothing else, it proved that Woods doesn't have to win a major to produce such memorable moments. *AP*

SEA Games hopefuls joining amateur circuit

THE MIMOSA Golf and Country Club plays host to the Titleist-Footjoy national amateur circuit on June 19-22 with the participation of hopefuls for the Southeast Asian Games in Malaysia this September.

Circuit leaders Angelo Que and Cookie LaO, with 22 and 18 points, respectively, are expected to see action along with the other heavy favorites for the SEAG slots.

The participants in the men's championship class kick off their 72-hole grind on Tuesday with the ladies championships battle for 54 holes kicking off on Wednesday.

In the lower divisions, play in the Group II and III will be held Tuesday and Wednesday while action in Group I, IV and ladies is scheduled Thursday and Friday.

Entry fee is P2,000 for non-members of Mimosa and P500 for members. Registration can be coursed through the NGAP or any Chris T Sports outlet or the tournament venue.

Ruby Chico-Walker, a former individual winner of the SEA Games, is leading the ladies side with 32 while Villaroman is second at 27 and Aileen Chua a far third with 13.

Iggy Clavecilla, tournament chair of the National Golf Association of the Philippines which is conducting the series as part of its aim to enhance the competitiveness of the country's top amateurs, said that they will evaluate the results of the circuit and pluck out the best players for the SEA Games.

Tiger calmly accepts end of run

TULSA, Oklahoma— After watching his streak of four straight major championships come to an end, Tiger Woods calmly accepted his fate as a non-factor in the US Open on Sunday.

The world number one came into the tournament as the overwhelming favorite, but failed to ever mount a serious challenge to the leaders after a rough start.

"Obviously I didn't hit the ball the way I needed to," said Woods, who finished with a three-over 283 total after closing with a one-under 69 at Southern Hills Country Club.

"I played hard and made a lot of putts for par or it could have been a lot worse," Woods said. "Once this week is over, I'll start again for the next week."

He entered the final round nine shots out of the lead and never was able to get his score lower than two over par after back-to-back birdies on holes four and five.

He bogeyed the par-4 ninth hole and was never able to make up any more ground on the leaders. "That hole got me a number of times," Woods said.

"Sometimes I hit good shots and sometimes I hit poor ones, but that's the way golf is. I have no regrets. I hit the best shots I could and it didn't work out."

Woods, who double bogeyed the ninth Thursday, was four over on the 374-yard hole for the tournament — his worst performance on any individual hole.

His problem Sunday came when his 9-iron approach came up short and rolled back off the green and he was unable to get up and down for par. *Reuters*

BOYSEN OPEN

TBAM bet steals limelight

THE COUNTRY's top bowlers were surprisingly quiet Sunday, enabling an unheralded TBAM member, Menchu Bautista, to take the spotlight in the Boysen-PBC Open 2001 championships at Green Valley lanes in Pasig City.

Bautista rolled a four-game series of 847 pins to surpass the 827 record of Trixie de Luna and pull away from Vila Fabros, who carded 795 to claim third spot, in the class A singles' competition.

Many others tried but failed to come up with a new mark in the series sponsored by Boysen Paints and Philippine Sports Commission and supported by Goldilocks, Filkor, Prima Pasta, Bowlmart, Storm products and First Choice.

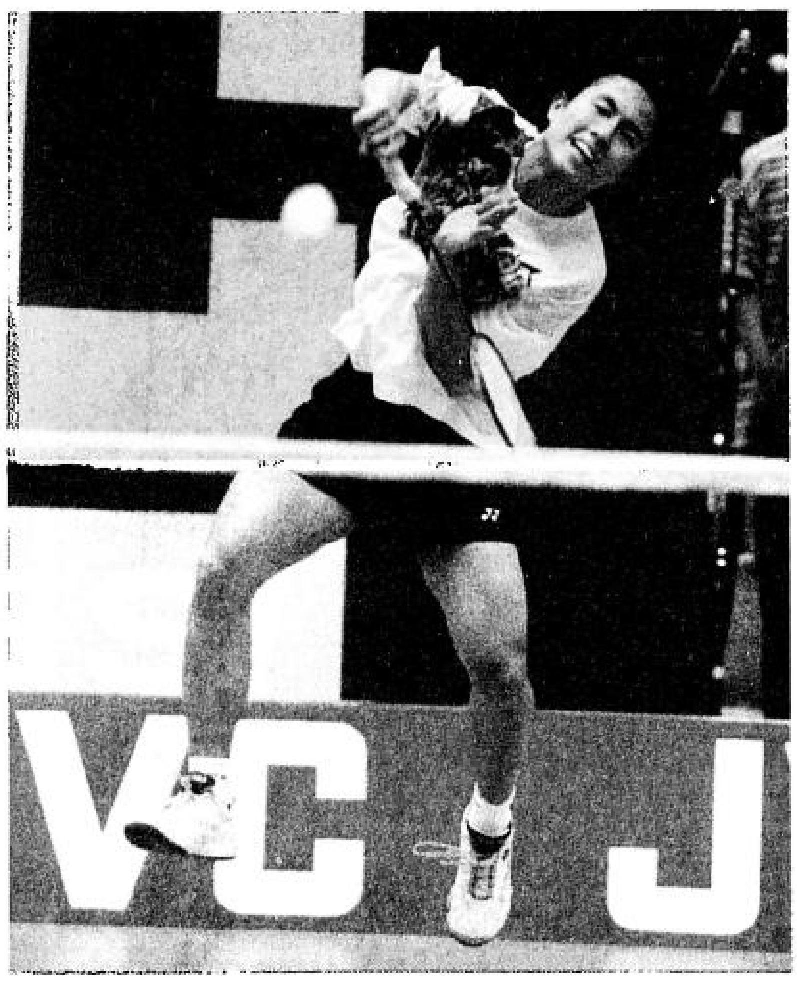
PBA's Bong Valencia started with a big promise as he vied in the class A men's event. But his final tally of 901 on games of 223, 247, 227 and 204 fell 42 pins short of matching the front running card of PBAP's Herbert Yu.

Yu and his partner, Ramon Ong, combined for 783 but the output fell short of the class A men's doubles mark of 911 held by Sammy Sy and Ong himself.

MTBA's Lorraine Go turned in the only other performance which made it to the leaderboard. She collected 1364 pins to rank third in class A ladies' all events, behind SJBA's Anne Samano (1408) and Unique's Maricar Arce (1384).

Crack bowlers form Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Korea and Chinese Taipei, among others, will also vie in the kegfest which serves as a qualifying round for the Philippine leg of the Asian Bowling Tour sponsored by ESPN.

RP OPEN BACKER
Manuel Roxas, director of Philippine Gaming and Amusement Corp., turns over to Wack Wack president Ben Abalos Casino Filipino's sponsorship check for the 86th Philippine Open golf championship at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club on June 28-July 1. Casino Filipino is co-presenter of the Open like San Miguel Beer. Looking on are (from left) Rey Aranda of Pagcor, Wack Wack general manager SP Malbarosa, Boy Gella of Pagcor, NGAP president Rod Feliciano, Ed Monzon of Wack Wack, Hermie Esguerra and Tony Sisante of the NGAP.



GALLANT CHAMP
Kennevic Asuncion shows the form that makes him the male seniors champion of the JVC Badminton Championships at Glorietta in Makati City Sunday. JESS YUSON

It's Santos vs Pantua

DAVAO CITY—El Santo Santos blanked Patrick Solis, 8-0, to arrange a final match against Ernesto Pantua, an 8-1 victor over Andrei Dizon, for the unisex 10 under division in the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2001 here Sunday at the Flores Village Tennis Club.

In the junior men's 21-under category, Ronard Joven of Isulan, Sultan Kudarat upset second seed Davaoeño Rollyto Litang 8-7 (5) to barge into the semifinal round against Jeffrey Bacariza, who edged Jonas Soriano, 8-6, in the lower half of the draw.

Top pick Roel Rubillar takes on Wowie Repaso, who nipped Rik Balindua 8-7 (3), in the Adidas netfest organized by the CTW and supported by Milo and PTV-4 Saturday weekly show Sports Kids.

The kick-off leg of the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2001 attracted some 102 boys and girls in the Southern Mindanao regions.

Lleyton trips Pete, Tim

LONDON —Lleyton Hewitt came from behind to beat seven-time Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras in the semifinal and then Tim Henman in straight set tiebreaks to win the $ 800,000 Stella Artois grass court title for the second year in a row on Sunday.

After Saturday's play had been washed out by rain, both semifinals and the final were played on Sunday at Queen's Club and the third seeded Australian wound up with the trophy once more to become a big threat at Wimbledon which starts June 25.

He downed Sampras 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 on court one in a rematch of last year's final and then switched to center court to beat Henman 7-6 (3), 7-6 (3). *AP*

BASEBALL RESULTS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Boston 4, Atlanta 3; Colorado 4, Cincinnati 3; Montreal 4, Toronto 1; Pittsburgh 1, Cleveland 0; Baltimore 10, Philadelphia 7; Milwaukee 5, Kansas City 2; St. Louis 8, Chicago White Sox 3; Chicago Cubs 5, Minnesota 4; Texas 6, Houston 2; Anaheim 6, Los Angeles 4; Florida 6, Tampa Bay 4; San Francisco 3, Oakland 0; Arizona 8, Detroit 3; San Diego 11, Seattle 9; N.Y. Mets 8, N.Y. Yankees 7. *AP*

Bata heads 8-man RP team to World Pool meet in Wales

A TOTAL OF 128 players, including eight Filipinos led by 1999 titleholder Efren Reyes, are entered in the 2001 World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales, on July 14-22.

With Reyes in the tournament are countrymen Francisco Bustamante, Rodolfo Luat, Leonardo Andam, Ramil Gallego, Warren Kiamco, Antonio Lining and Canada resident Alex Pagulayan, who is registered as a Canada entry.

Promoter Matchroom Sports and the World Pool Association released the draw which divided the 128 players representing 44 countries into 16 groups of eight players.

All the players will play each other once in a race-to-five match and then the top four in each group advance to the last 64 knockout stages where they will be seeded based on group performance.

The annual championship, the richest pool tournament in the world, has put up a total prize fund of US$300,000 for this year. The winner gets $65,000, runner-up $30,000 and losing semifinalists $17,500 each.

Villanueva tops aerobics tilt

THE ALL-WOMEN Rexona Independence Day Aerobics Marathon recently drew a big field, particularly the youth, professionals, plain enthusiasts, government employees, and even from the military side.

Held as part of the country's Independence Day celebration, the one-day endurance event, sponsored by Unilever through its Rexona Ultimate Challenge series, attracted more than 1,500 entries who participated in a mass aerobics across the Quirino Grandstand with the survivors moving to the nearby Manila Hotel at mid-morning.

In the professional division, which offered a top prize of P75,000 to the participant who can last longest, 23-year-old-real estate businesswoman Karen Villanueva got the nod of the judges for following the routine exercises aside from lasting for more than seven hours.

Also a powerlifter, Villanueva, who works out regularly at the Slimmers World in SM City, topped the 10 group of finalists who survived the test of endurance.

Professional fitness instructor Fhe Manalili Samia, 31, placed second and received P35,000, while third placer was Joy Borromeo who earned P15,000 for her seven-hour effort.

In the amateur division of the event, top three finishers were led by Ateneo legal management student Joyce Basco, 17, from Slimmers World—SM City, Japanese piano teacher Karina Sawai, and NGO worker Rachel Raymundo who received P20,000, P10,000 and P5,000, respectively.

Lao, 4 others pace chess qualifying

Standings after two rounds: Lao, Nadera, Maga, Bancod, Nolte, Dableo, 2 points; Garma, Paragua, Sanchez, Calvo, Roca, Ibanez, Pacis, 1.5; Donguines, Milagrosa, Bandal, Paciencia, Del Mundo, Bernardino, Salvador, Ramos, Carag, Lumapas, Nario.

NATIONAL Master Elias Lao took a break from his job as arbiter and returned to his first love—playing competitive chess, at least for the time being.

After two rounds into the qualification tournament for the Asian Continental Championship, Lao leads the 40-player pack with two full points along with five other campaigners.

The 52-year-old Lao, who earned his NM title nearly two decades ago, wielded the ax against No. 2 seed FM Fernie Donguines for his second straight point in the tournament organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, and supported by Ortigas & Co., Ltd., and Philworld Online, the official Internet server provider of the NCFP.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

POC liquidation case to sol gen

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission is set to bring the liquidation case of the Philippine Olympic Committee to the Office of the Solicitor General after the Olympic body failed to comply with the June 15 deadline. The POC owes the financial arm of the government in sports P10 million in receipts and documents unaccounted for since the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games. *June Navarro*

Sampras still Wimbledon favorite

LONDON—His ranking has slipped, the titles are drying up and he has willingly tossed aside his crown as world number one, but when Wimbledon gets underway in seven days' time, Pete Sampras will be the man to beat. The seven-time champion has not won a Grand Slam title off grass since 1997, but at 29 he still believes he has what it takes to beat anyone on the slick, green surface.

Welcoat eyes 3-0 margin; Shark fights for survival

BEST-OF-SEVEN:
GAME ONE: Welcoat 58, Shark 57
GAME TWO: Welcoat 80, Shark 79, OT

GAMES TODAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
3:30 p.m.—Ana Freezers vs GIV Soap (for 3rd)
5:30 p.m.—Shark vs Welcoat Paints (championship)

By DENNIS EROA

BACK to familiar territory, Shark Energy Drink fights for survival as it battles titleholder Welcoat Paints in Game Three today of the best-of-seven Alaxan-PBL Chairman's Cup championship series at the Makati Coliseum.

Behind 0-2, the Power Boosters are hard-pressed to prevail or face the dark prospect of being swept by the Paintmasters for the second time in the Chairman's Cup.

In its first trip to the finals, Shark lost 4-0 to Welcoat in last year's Chairman's Cup. Shark redeemed itself with a 4-3 win in the Challenge Cup despite losing the first two games of the series to Welcoat.

"We've been here before. Now we have to show everybody that we can bounce back. I remain hopeful," said Shark mentor Leo Austria, whose charges failed to convert the winning shots in their twin losses.

Welcoat mentor Junel Baculi described the 5:30 match with caution. "Two more wins to win it. Shark is not the type of team which surrenders easily. What happened last conference is still in my mind," Baculi said.

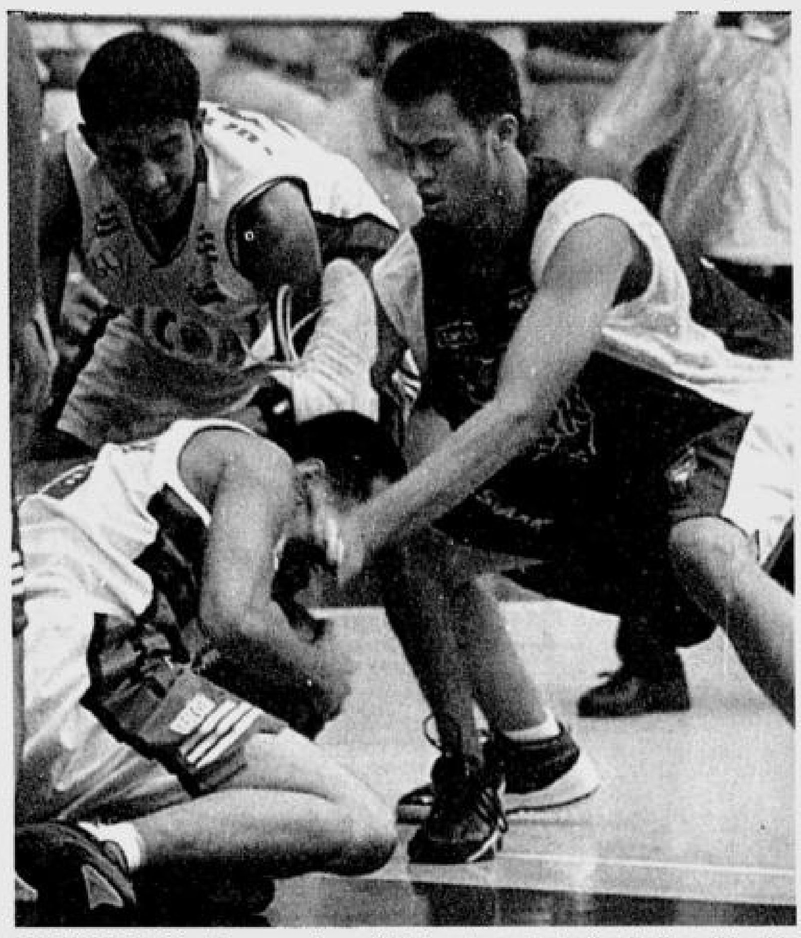
The absence of Roger Yap, however, poses a problem for Austria. Shark is terribly lacking in a take-charge-guy, a role MVP Chester Tolomia is unable to essay.

Austria said Shark has already solved Welcoat's zone, pointing out the problem lies in his players failure to immediately recognize a shift in the Paintmasters set plays.

High-scoring Ren Ren Ritualo and Jojo Manalo, heroes of Welcoat's wins, are consistently hitting their outside shots. Welcoat had 12 triples in Game Two. The 22-year-old Ritualo has also added another dimension to his deadly game as proven by his hustle in Game Two.

Twin towers Yancy de Ocampo and Derick Canlas are grabbing important rebounds for Welcoat but the biggest revelation so far is 6-foot-7 Earvin Sotto, whose medium range jumpers are keeping Shark in the thick of the fight.

Serving as appetizer is the 3:30 clash for third between Ana Freezers and GIV Beauty Soap. GIV downed Ana, 100-87, in Game One, but Ana celebrated the return of owner-coach Rudy Mendoza with a 90-85 win in Game Two last Saturday. The battle for third is a best-of-three affair.



FORWARD Brix Encarnacion of Welcoat protects the ball as Shark's Earvin Sotto (right) hounds him in Game Two of the PBL Chairman's Cup title series. Teammate Mike Tolentino tries to help Encarnacion. Welcoat won, 80-79, in overtime. JESS YUSON

PAL Intersports set late August

AFTER a break of four years, the Philippine Airlines Intersports competition stages a comeback with the holding of its 24th edition in Cebu City in late August.

The multi-sport athletic meet for business executives from various PAL domestic points is scheduled from Aug. 31 to Sept. 2, 2001, at the Alta Vista Golf and Country Club. Appropriately, the theme for this year's tourney is "Welcome Back!

A total of eight teams representing the same number of cities will see action in six official events and five non-bearing games.

Competing are the Bacolod Executives, Iloilo Executives, Manila Executives, Cagayan de Oro Executives, Bomberos de Davao, Caballeros de Zamboanga, Los Hermanos de General Santos and hosts Los Jefes de Cebu.

The contingents from Cagayan de Oro and General Santos will be making their debuts in the tournament.

All eight teams will vie for honors in the major events of basketball, golf, badminton, bowling, volleyball and tennis.

There will also be a parallel competition in the demonstration sports of billiards, darts, table tennis, dance sport and tennis. However, the results here will not count toward the overall title.

Eligible to participate in the PAL Intersports are executives who are at least 45 years old and who hold at least a supervisory rank in a business establishment in the team's home city.

Nike 3 on 3 starts today

THE COUNTRY'S biggest high school basketball competition, the Nike 3 on 3, launches its eighth year today with its Coaches' Workshop at 2 p.m. at Tequila Joe's El Pueblo.

Some 100 Metro Manila high school coaches and athletics directors are in attendance in the workshop scheduled for each weekend until August.

Sweeping across the country through the cities of Baguio, Bacolod, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Davao and Metro Manila, the Nike 3 on 3 games provide Philippine high school athletes an opportunity to exhibit their athletic talents to scouts from major universities in Manila.

Nike Sports Marketing manager Auty Villarama said that Nike would endeavor to use the 3 on 3 games to bring the country closer through sports.

Over 160 high school teams nationwide, one team from each of the five provinces and 6 teams from Metro Manila, will contend for the title of National Team Champion at the Nike 3 on 3 Finals on Aug. 18 at the SM Megamall.

The finalist and runners-up will receive Nike gear and cash prizes.

The national champion moves on to Malaysia for the Asian Regional Championship where they shall defend the Philippines' two-year title against the champions from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

The Nike 3 on 3 is managed by Prime Events Experts Inc., spearheaded by tournament director Tanny Gonzales.

Ferriols MBA hardcourt hero

JOHN Ferriols, who has been consistently playing steadily for the Negros Slashers in the team's back-to-back escape acts last week, was the MBA Press Corps choice as Hardcourt Hero of the Week.

The 1998 MVP averaged 17 points, 9 rebounds, 2 assists, 1.5 blocks and 1 steal as Negros twice warded off Socsargen's threat to the Slashers' leadership.

In the teams' two previous encounters, the 2000 Southern Conference champion team encountered stiff opposition from the revitalized Socsargen—the first game held in Davao ending at 93-91 and the second at 112-99 five days later.

Ferriols was especially effective in the rematch held last Friday in Cebu, where he paced the team with 21 points, 9 rebounds and 2 blocks.

The Slashers have so far won all of the club's first four games of the 2001 MBA season and are on top of the standings.

Ferriols received 2/3 of the Press Corps votes and won over Cebuana-Lhuillier's Matt Mitchell, the only other Hardcourt Hero candidate who got the nod of the scribes.

The other candidates were Slasher Dennis Madrid, Blade Eddie Laure, Gem Peter Naron, and Knights Chito Victolero and Omanzie Rodriguez who tied the MBA's all-time record of 11 blocks in a game he himself set last year.

The term Hardcourt Hero was originally exclusively used for the MVP of the MBA All-stars. It is now being used to define the MBA Press Corps choice for Player of the Week.

Liberty beat Sol

MIAMI —Crystal Robinson scored 13 points and Vickie Johnson added 10 as the New York Liberty beat the Miami Sol, 55-48, yesterday for their fourth straight victory.

Elena Baranova scored a season-high 22 points, along with eight rebounds and four blocked shots, for the Sol, who have lost three straight games after opening the season, 4-0. Sheri Sam scored 10.

The Sol shot a season-worst 26.2 percent from the field. Tari Phillips had eight points and 12 rebounds for New York (5-3), while reserve Becky Hammon scored eight. *AP*

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African kid bound for NBA

MONTGOMERY, Alabama —Three years ago, Ousmane Cisse arrived in the United States from the West African nation of Mali as a raw talent who spoke little English but showed hints of greatness and a remarkable knack for swatting away shots.

Now, he is a top high-school player who is poised to make the enormous leap from a tiny high school in Montgomery to the NBA.

Cisse, 18, is projected as a late first-round pick in the June 27 draft, but some question his readiness and the role of guardian Donald Jackson in his decision to skip college.

Jackson denied repeated requests to interview Cisse for this story and also declined comment, citing what he described as unfair treatment by the media in Alabama and a desire to focus on getting ready for the draft.

Cisse's talent speaks for itself. The muscular 2.03-meter (6-foot-8) forward led Catholic High School in Montgomery to its first state title as a sophomore in 1999, averaging 19.9 points, 14.1 rebounds and seven blocks. Still developing his skills, he blocked 17 shots in one game and was named one of the year's top high school players.

Then, Cisse transferred across town to Saint Jude and had to sit out his junior season under Alabama High School Athletic Association transfer rules. He returned even better as a senior, averaging 29 points and 16 boards for Saint Jude. A knee injury limited him to only 19 games, but Cisse was still named a top player of the year.

Two games after returning from the knee injury, he blocked 15 shots and had a triple double.

"When he first got here, he was basically just jumping up and down," said Tomas Nagys, a Lithuanian exchange student who played with Cisse in 1999. "Then he got some knowledge about the game of basketball."

Nagys credits much of that progression to Jackson, a local attorney who has represented athletes in the past.

Jackson would not say if he intends to represent Cisse, but he has registered as an agent with the NBA Players Association. *AP*

Caltex's Aguilar wins motocross

THE NATIONAL Motocross Super Series concluded its 5th leg in Ormoc City last Saturday with Caltex Revtex—KTM team captain Glenn Aguilar ruling the Pro Open category, winning over Ernie and Jing Leongson.

Even as his rivals switched to higher displacement 4-stroke engines, Aguilar pulled away with 194 points over Ernie's 145 points in this category after 5 legs of competition.

In the Pro 125 category, it is the same story, with Aguilar collecting 197 points over Ernie Leongson's 141 points and former Caltex rider Jovie Saulog's 129 points.

Aguilar is now almost assured of the National Rider of the Year honors.

Twelve-year-old "Wonder Boy" Kenneth San Andres of Caltex Revtex—KTM continued to assert his dominance in the Mini-Class category with a 34-point lead over closest pursuer Malco Bundo, 189-154. Alvin Beech, also from the same team, maintained his lead in the Expert category.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: WNBA - Orlando Miracle vs Indiana Fever at 7 a.m. (r – 5 p.m.) on ESPN

GOLF: Senior PGA - The Countrywide Tradition, Second Round at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

U.S. Open Golf Championship Highlights, First Round at 1 p.m. on Star Sports and at 10:30 p.m. on ESPN

LPGA Evian Masters, First Round tomorrow at 4 a.m. on ESPN

TENNIS: Wimbledon Official Film 1997 at 7 a.m. (r), 1998 at 8 p.m. on Star Sports

BASEBALL: NCAA College World Series - Game 14(If Necc) at 11:30 a.m. on ESPN

BOWLING: Professional Women's Bowling Association at 5 p.m. on ESPN

MOTOR SPORTS: SBK Superbike Highlights at 3:30 p.m. on ESPN

FIM World Motorcycle Championship Highlights at 9 p.m. on Star Sports

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■ Crackdown on phone snatchers A20

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Rape alert in Makati City

3 men in a van may also be responsible for attacks in other areas

BY NELSON F. FLORES

MEN in a white van are believed to be responsible for a series of rapes in Makati City.

Makati police yesterday raised an alarm after a 27-year-old factory worker from Muntinlupa was abducted while walking along a dark portion of Paseo de Roxas near the Mandarin Oriental Hotel about 9 p.m. on Sunday.

Chief Insp. Angelita Albarico, chief of the women's desk of the Makati City police, said the occupants of the van grabbed the woman and then took turns in raping her inside the van.

The woman said the men then dumped her in front of the security outpost of San Miguel Village, which is just a stone's throw away from the Makati City police headquarters.

But someone was able to take down the registration number of the van and police are now trying to identify the owner of the vehicle, Chief Insp. Albarico said.

She said the suspects appear to be also responsible for a series of sexual assaults in other areas in Metro Manila.

Albarico warned women to be on the alert when walking in dimly lighted areas at night.

She said that in 1994, police caught a rapist with the same modus operandi as the current suspects. The rapist is now in death row, Albarico added.

Cop's slay is murder, not homicide, say colleagues

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

CALOOCAN police are up in arms over government prosecutors' decision to charge two businessmen and their driver with homicide, instead of murder, for shooting dead

COP'S SLAY/ A21

VELEZ

Angela Velez latest carnap victim in QC

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

YESTERDAY, it was the turn of movie star Angela Velez to lose her vehicle to thieves.

It was Velez's boyfriend and fellow actor Enrique "John" Apacible who reported the theft yesterday morning to the Project 4 police station.

Apacible said he lost Velez's white Mitsubishi Adventure van (WLR-620) while it was parked in front of his home at 136-B Kalatiaw St., Project 4, Quezon City, according to police radio operator Sergio Hilomen.

ANGELA/ A20

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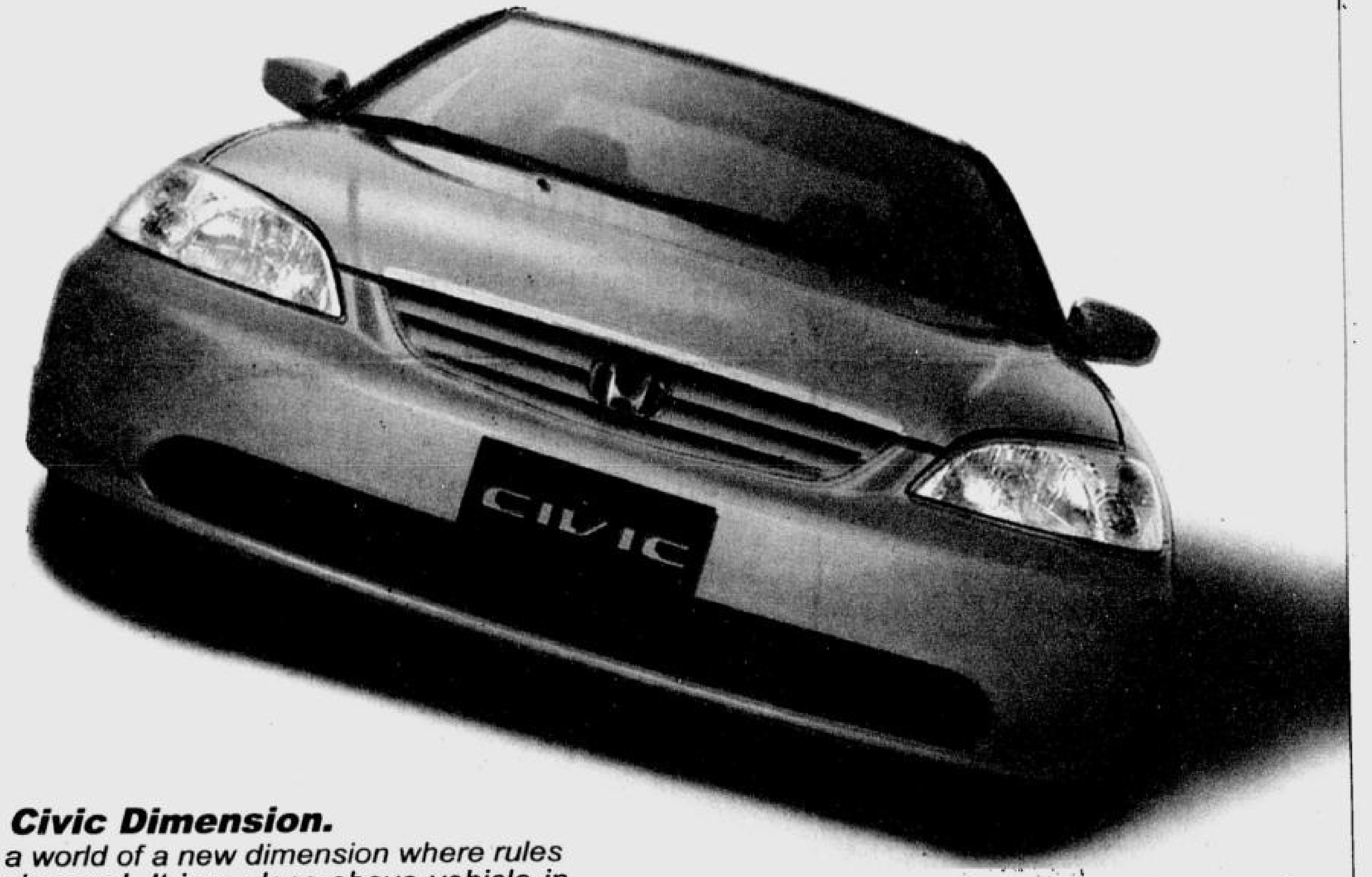

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Bludgeoned

A 55-YEAR-OLD Chinese was found bludgeoned to death inside his noodle factory in Binondo, Manila on Sunday.

His wife found Chua Sieng Tan dead at 10:20 p.m. in his office-residence at 830 C. Planas St. His head was bleeding and apparently had been hit with a hard object, police said.

The victim was pronounced dead upon arrival at the Metropolitan Hospital in Tondo.

SPO4 William Gondranios of the city police's homicide section said Chua was last seen with two unidentified men, possibly dismissed workers.

After a scuffle, the suspects clubbed Chua, took an undetermined amount of money from him and escaped, police said. *Jerome Aning*

Crackdown on phone snatchers

BY AGNES E. DONATO

CELLULAR phones are being snatched at an alarming rate in the metropolis, enough to move Metro Manila police chief Deputy Director General Romeo Peña to order a crackdown on cell phone thieves preying on people in malls, schools and other public places.

As a result, police were able to arrest three suspected cell phone snatchers over the weekend, said Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia, San Juan police chief.

De Gracia identified the suspects as Nolly Lilac, 30, of Valenzuela Street, Sta. Mesa, Manila, Rodolfo Pangan, a native of San Fernando, Pampanga, and laborer Ramil Tapar 20, of Barangay Corazon de Jesus, San Juan.

Tapar was accused of stealing the Nokia 3210 of Josefa Calingasan, 14, a student of St. John Academy, who was then answering a call while walking on Jose Gil Street.

Calingasan called for help when her phone was snatched. Police deployed in the area immediately chased and caught the suspect, and recovered Calingasan's unit worth P5,000.

Suspect Lilac reportedly snatched the cell phone of Cherry Garcia, a guest relations officer of Café Melima on Aurora Boulevard.

Police arrested Lilac as he tried to make a run for it.

Pangan was caught in Greenhills when he tried to steal the Nokia 3210 of a shopper.

Charges are being prepared against the suspects who are now detained at the San Juan police station.

ERIK ARAZAS

NEW SMOKEY

A growing expanse of garbage along Road 10 in Tondo, Manila is threatening to be another Smokey Mountain, the infamous dump nearby. Residents have blamed this new dump for the death of a number of children around the area.

2 get life terms for shabu sale

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

A MALABON regional trial court yesterday sentenced a couple to life imprisonment for selling illegal drugs worth P300,000 two years ago.

Found guilty of drug peddling were Teresa Corpuz, 33, and Marcy Santos, 24, both residents of Malabon City.

Judge Benjamin Antonio also ordered the drug pushers to pay P400,000 in damages.

Corpuz and Santos were arrested in a buy-bust operation on Rizal Avenue Extension, Malabon on Jan. 4, 1999.

A woman told the Special Anti-Narcotics Enforcement Team in Cavite that she was about to buy 300 grams of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) worth P300,000 from Corpuz and Santos in Malabon.

Team leader Insp. Nolasco Cortez set out to trap the couple as the informant agreed to broker the sale between the accused and PO3 Albert Colaler, who would pose as the buyer, in front of the San Bartolome Church on Rizal Avenue Extension about 11 p.m. on Jan. 4.

In their testimonies, Corpuz and Santos claimed they were framed. They said they were running errands and they did not know why the police arrested them.

But Judge Antonio did not buy their claim.

"No ill motive was or could be attributed to the police officers, aside from the fact that they are presumed to have regularly performed their duty," the judge said.

UN on garbage: Act swiftly

THE GARBAGE problem of the metropolis and key cities in the Philippines will remain a major challenge in the next few years, requiring the government to come up with an effective solid waste management program, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said.

Terence Jones, UNDP resident representative and resident coordinator of the UN System in the Philippines, said a key formula is to enhance participation of government agencies, non-government organizations and the private sector in the local level to implement a community-based solution to the solid waste problem.

The UNDP's advice came as the government prepares for a series of consultations with the United Nations starting June 22 for the implementing rules and regulations of Republic Act No. 9003, known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had asked the UNDP to help prepare the IRR for the RA 9003, which she signed in late January, with the aim of adopting and implementing a systematic comprehensive and ecological solid waste management program nationwide.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez and Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos are expected to lead 200 mayors, barangay officials and members of the National Solid Waste Management Commission and representatives of NGOs in the consultative forum.

Metro Manila alone produces about 5,800 metric tons, or about 2,800 cubic meters of garbage daily, 45 percent of which is kitchen waste. By 2010, Metro Manila is expected to throw away nearly 10,000 metric tons of garbage daily, or nearly double the 5,350 metric tons churned out in 1997.

The metropolis has a population of 10 million (13 percent of the total population) and a land area of only 0.2 percent of the total land area of the country. But it contributes around 30 percent of the total population, making it a vital cog of the Philippines' economic life.

With solid waste in Metro Manila growing by 2 percent yearly due to the increasing number of people, a problem arises given the declining number of landfill capacities and the extreme difficulty of finding new sites.

Worse, only 73 percent of the total garbage generated are collected, with the rest ending up in rivers and drainage systems. This causes flooding, a serious problem especially during the rainy season.

Metro Manila residents have just started to pay more serious attention to segregation, recycling and composting, although private and community groups have tried in past years to popularize sound principles in solid waste management, and thus reduce waste, and increase recycling and recovery.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, June 19, 2001
11th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **2 Cor 8:1-9**
Gospel: **Mt 5:43-48**

Jesus said to his disciples, "You have heard that it was said: *Love your neighbor and do not do good to your enemy.* But this I tell you: Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in Heaven. For he makes his sun rise on both the wicked and the good, and he gives rain to both the just and the unjust.

If you love those who love you, what is special about that? Do not even tax collectors do as much? And if you are friendly only to your friends, what is so exceptional about that? Do not even the pagans do as much? For your part you shall be righteous and perfect in the way your heavenly Father is righteous and perfect."

Commentary

Today's reading is summarized in the last verse, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." According to Jewish tradition the person who keeps God's commandment without any compromise is perfect. Most likely Matthew is thinking concretely of the love of enemies in particular. When speaking of the perfection of God he refers to God's goodness and compassion. The followers of Jesus are then to be distinguished from others by their perfection. Love for enemies means for Matthew a tangible deed. He criticizes here a too abstract and therefore reductionist interpretation of this commandment. There is always a concrete reality in which a person is called to fullness of life.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for all the occasions in which you call us to grow in wisdom. Give us the courage to grow beyond ourselves in sincere love.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY)—*Estafa*—The crime of *estafa* was also committed by the accused. She falsely represented herself to possess the power and capacity to recruit workers for abroad to induce the complainants to repose their trust in her and pay her the money she asked to facilitate their employment abroad. Her promises of gainful employment in Singapore, however, turned out to be false as the complainants were either not given the job position she had promised; or not remunerated in the amount she had told them; or suffered under working conditions which were not according to what she had represented to them. These acts of the accused constitute *estafa* under Art. 315 of the Revised Penal Code. The fact that the accused returned a portion of the sum of money each complainant paid to her does not negate the crime of *estafa*. It is well-settled that criminal liability for *estafa* is nt affected by compromise or novation of contract, for it is a public offense which must be prosecuted and punished by the government on its own motion even though complete reparation should have been made of the damage suffered by the offended party. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Puno, First Division, People v. Ladera, G.R. No. 131922, November 15, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Erwin Tulfo survives 'slay try'

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

ABS-CBN reporter Erwin Tulfo yesterday survived what could be an attempt on his life after unidentified men on board a metallic gray Toyota Corolla bumped his motorcycle and then tried to run him over in Quezon City.

Police said Tulfo, 37, of 168 Scout Fuentebella St. in Quezon City, was on his way home on his Yamaha 400 cc motorcycle and was cruising along Scout Tuazon Street from Mother Ignacia Avenue when the incident happened about 12:30 a.m. yesterday.

Tulfo slowed down as he approached the corner of Scout Tuazon and Scout Borromeo when the car suddenly appeared and swerved to the left, hitting Tulfo's motorcycle on the right side, police said.

Tulfo was thrown off his motorcycle and landed on the road, suffering bruises in different parts of the body, police said.

Tulfo reportedly was not wearing a helmet.

Police said that instead of pulling over and helping Tulfo, the occupants of the vehicle drove the car backward and tried to run over him.

But Tulfo shouted for help and the car sped toward Tomas Morato Avenue, police said.

Tulfo was treated at the Capitol Medical Center.

Police said they are now looking for witnesses who might have seen the car's plate number.

Tulfo is the younger brother of Inquirer columnist Ramon Tulfo.

Prune down the useless military

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE GOVERNMENT is hard pressed going after the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan because there are many interlopers. These meddlers have given validity to the proposal to impose martial law in the island province for the duration of the campaign.

One such meddler is Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar who has been making inaccurate announcements about the fighting in Basilan. For example, Wahab, a former Moro rebel, said that bandit leader Khadaffy Janjalani had been killed in an encounter. But a former captive said that Janjalani was alive.

Another interloper is Dr. Huda Lim, a Red Cross official, who reportedly acted as an intermediary between the kidnappers and relatives of some of the hostages. Lim was allegedly the conduit in the payment of ransom money.

Still another meddler is a radio station of the Radio Mindanao Network in Zamboanga City. This station has been broadcasting propaganda of the Abu Sayyaf. Some reports broadcast by the station were made to mislead pursuing government troops.

***

The government is clearly losing the war against the Abu Sayyaf because of several factors aside from its inefficient military.

To protect its interests and those of the citizenry, the government could make use of its police powers to turn the tide in its favor. One such police power is declaring martial law in Basilan and neighboring areas.

If martial law were imposed on the island province and environs the meddlers could be arrested without court warrants. They could be detained, the radio station could be closed for the duration of the emergency.

***

The war in Basilan has revealed the utter uselessness of our military in dealing with armed threats from within, as well as from foreigners.

The Armed Forces can never live down that shameful episode in Lamitan town where the Abu Sayyaf bandits, surrounded from all sides by our soldiers, were able to escape. What made the escape more shameful to the military was that the Abu Sayyaf bandits moved at a slow pace because they were burdened by their big number and their hostages.

The government should think of downsizing the military to the barest minimum. Trimming the military fats would make it lean and mean.

***

Since the Armed Forces modernization is still way down the road because of budget constraints, the best thing is to retire personnel who are NPAs (non-performing assets).

We have a navy, which has no ships, an air force with no planes and an army with no arms. To top it all, our military—by and large—is undisciplined and has very low morale.

Congress should pass a law providing a budget for the early retirement of useless military personnel.

Our legislators could also pass a law forming a militia force to replace the regular military.

***

Members of the regular military could train the militia which they would also head in areas which are threatened by the rebels.

The trainers could be members of the Army Special Forces, Rangers or Philippine Marines. They could form the core group that would remain in the service after the fats—the useless military personnel—had been trimmed off.

Maintaining a militia force would be easier on the budget since its members would be serving on a voluntary basis.

***

People who would argue against the formation of a citizen army would surely point to the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Units or Cafgus whose members are mostly undisciplined.

But the lack of discipline within the Cafgu ranks is a result of its undisciplined military trainers. The Cafgus just mimic their trainers.

The trainers are undisciplined because our military is undisciplined. In fact, according to a military expert, we have the most undisciplined soldiers in the whole of Asia.

***

The Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and Sulu is not the only burden of the Arroyo administration. It is also having problems dealing with kidnappers and criminals in Metro Manila.

As I was writing this column yesterday, I received a disturbing report. A source from the Chinese community said that the daughter of the owner of Uratex Foam was kidnapped at 4 p.m. yesterday at the UP Diliman campus in Quezon City.

Helen Grace Cheng, who studies at UP, was kidnapped along with her two bodyguards.

***

Why are the police under the Arroyo administration helpless in going after criminals, particularly kidnappers and bank robbers in Metro Manila.

I can surmise an answer: The Erap administration allegedly made an unsigned pact with criminal elements like the Kuratong Baleleng. In exchange, the gangs were given concessions by the government. The "Kuratong" smuggled rice with impunity in Ozamiz City.

Now the deal with the criminal elements is off. And since they're out of business in the places where they came from, they're back to their illegal trade in Metro Manila.

Bus firm robbed of ₱1million

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

DESPITE its location—near the Kamuning police station and the interior department building on Edsa—the Jac Liner terminal in Kamias, Quezon City was robbed of nearly P1 million Sunday night.

The robbery happened following Friday's rash of robberies in the same city which left one man dead, two others injured, and nearly P400,000 in payroll money stolen.

Eight unidentified armed men robbed the Jac Liner office and garage at 119 Kamuning Road in Barangay Kamias, Quezon City, of its two-day earnings worth P863,301.89, said investigator SPO1 Ramon Fernandez of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit.

The Jac Liner bus office has been operating for six years but employees said it was the first time it was robbed.

The suspects struck at 11:30 p.m. Sunday while there were no security guards on duty, Fernandez said.

Seven of the suspects alighted from a green Tamaraw FX van. Two of them waited on the ground floor while the rest, who were armed with handguns, went to the second floor and into the cashier's office, Fernandez added.

Angela Velez latest . . .

(From page A19)

Apacible said he left the van outside his house about 1 a.m. yesterday. When he checked at 5:15 a.m., the van was already gone, he said.

Velez is the latest victim in a series of car thefts and robberies in Quezon City.

Last week, a Manila Bulletin reporter lost his car while it was parked outside the ABS-CBN compound on Mother Ignacia Avenue.

For this, the acting chief of the Kamuning police station was relieved of his post.

Other media and show business personalities have also reported that their cars were stolen or robbed in Quezon City.

Because of the growing number of car theft cases in Quezon City, the place has earned the title of being Metro Manila's "carnap capital."

Central Police District officials, however, point out that Quezon City covers almost one-fourth of Metro Manila's land area and thus gets a lot of car theft cases.

67-year-old man stabbed dead by 27-year-old wife

By Jerome Aning

A 67-YEAR-OLD man was stabbed dead in Ermita, Manila early Sunday night by his 29-year-old live-in partner who said he used to beat her up because of unjustified jealousy.

Pepito Salazar died before he could be brought to the Philippine General Hospital. He suffered stab wounds in the left side of the chest and the left side of the face.

Salazar and his live-in partner Venus Jacinto had no jobs or permanent residence and used to loiter in Ermita, spending the night in the vicinity of the Barangay 667 Hall of Arquiza Street, according to SPO1 Danny Vidad.

Around 6 p.m. Sunday, Salazar and Jacinto were drinking in front of the house of a friend on Arquiza when they got into a loud argument.

Salazar reportedly beat up Jacinto and threw a wooden bench at her, grazing her left arm.

Enraged, Jacinto grabbed a dagger which she had concealed in a plastic bag and attacked her husband, police said.

Neighbors brought the couple to the hospital but Salazar was already dead. Jacinto was arrested and would to be turned over to police as soon as she was treated.

She later told the police that her husband used to beat her up because he suspected her of having an affair with a younger man in the neighborhood.

'Boy Negro' hunted for killing buddy

By Christian V. Esguerra

MALABON police could not understand why a drunken man on Sunday night killed his drinking buddy while trying to break a fight between the latter and his younger brother.

Police are now tracking down the suspect, who was identified only as "Boy Negro."

Boy Negro allegedly stabbed to death Rogelio Acosta, 28, a resident of 216 Damata Compound, Letre Road in Barangay Tonsuya, Malabon.

Boy Negro, Acosta, and Acosta's younger brother Nestor were drinking at the Kadima Compound also on Letre Road when a fight broke out between the brothers, the investigator said.

The brothers engaged in a fistfight, the investigator said.

Boy Negro tried to break the fight by allegedly stabbing Rogelio in the left armpit.

Boy Negro fled. His victim died minutes later, police said.

Acosta's body was brought to the Valenzuela Funeral Homes for autopsy.

Student tells kidnap story

By Jerome Aning

AN 18-YEAR-OLD student of the Mapua Institute of Technology, who was reported abducted in Intramuros, Manila last Thursday, surfaced Sunday morning, claiming that his abductors were merely after his P11,000 tuition money.

Jaime Domingo Jr., a sophomore electrical engineering student and resident of 16 Cadena de Amor St. in Andrea Village, Bacoor, Cavite, said his abductors dumped him near the pedestrian overpass at the corner of Quezon Boulevard and Raon Street in Quiapo.

The Western Police District, however, is checking out the story of his abduction and locating the places where he said he was detained for four days.

Domingo was abducted by two masked men on board a maroon van while he was walking along Victoria Street in Intramuros around 8:30 a.m. on June 14. His parents, Jaime Sr. and Josephine, and sister Joanne reported his disappearance to the WPD general assignments section around 10 a.m. the following day.

In his account to GAS investigator SPO3 Cecilio Sacurom, Domingo said men who wore bonnet masks covered his face with a dark hood. He said they brought him to a house after about 20 minutes on the road.

Domingo said he was taken to a room on the third floor. He said the room's only window was covered with plywood.

He said the suspects got his P11,000 cash which was meant to pay for his tuition and they took turns in intimidating him.

He was locked up alone for the night and on the following day, he scribbled his name in a sort of engineer's shorthand on the wall using a red ballpen, as evidence that he was illegally detained.

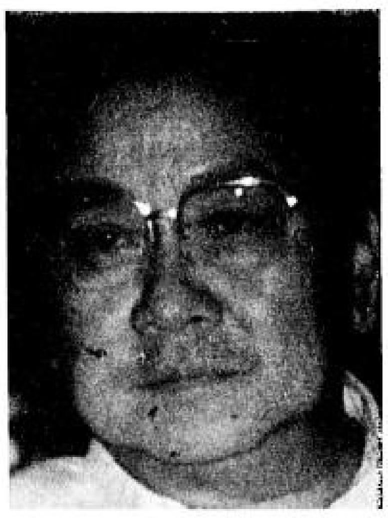
For the first two days, he was given food, but was given beer instead of water to drink. On the third day, he was not given food at all, he said.

Around 6:30 a.m. Sunday, a hood was again placed over his head and he was brought out of the house and loaded in the same van. He said one of the suspects put P200 in his pocket before dropping him near the Quiapo overpass.

He said he quickly removed the hood and saw the suspects' van speeding south. He hailed a jeepney and alighted at the Liwasang Bonifacio, where he took a Cavite-bound bus.

Atienza hits Legarda on Mehan construction

By Jerome Aning



ATIENZA

LEGARDA

A VEXED Manila Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday said Sen. Loren Legarda's opposition to the construction of a new City College of Manila building in the historic Mehan Garden was a mere "knee-jerk reaction."

"She should first know the details (of the project) before speaking up," the mayor said. "She just listens to anybody."

He said he invited Legarda to a tour at the project site so he could "personally brief her so she would be enlightened."

Last week, Legarda joined other historians and cultural conservationists in expressing "alarm" over the construction of CCM in the Mehan Garden, which was established during the Spanish regime and was known as the Jardin Botanico.

City Hall wants to transfer the CCM, currently located on Escolta in Sta. Cruz, to the more spacious site in Mehan. But the new campus reportedly would use a huge portion of the garden, one of the city's remaining green parks.

Atienza said critics are "merely misinformed" and that the establishment of the new CCM would in fact "enhance" the garden. He also denied that a mall would be put in the area.

"We in Manila are not culturally ignorant and insensitive to environmental concerns," he said in a press statement.

He said City Hall's development plans "are geared to serve the majority of Manileños, especially the poor, without sacrificing the environment as well as the historical significance of the areas that we develop."

The city's efforts to redevelop Mehan would even encourage residents "to appreciate it more and really use it," he said.

"Do they want the place to remain empty and to let it decay?"

According to the mayor's office, only about one-third, or 8,055.70 square meters, of the 24,609.14 square meter lot containing the garden and the nearby Sining Kayumanggi building will be allotted for the CCM campus.

This means that 16,556.44 square meters would still be maintained as open space, Atienza said.

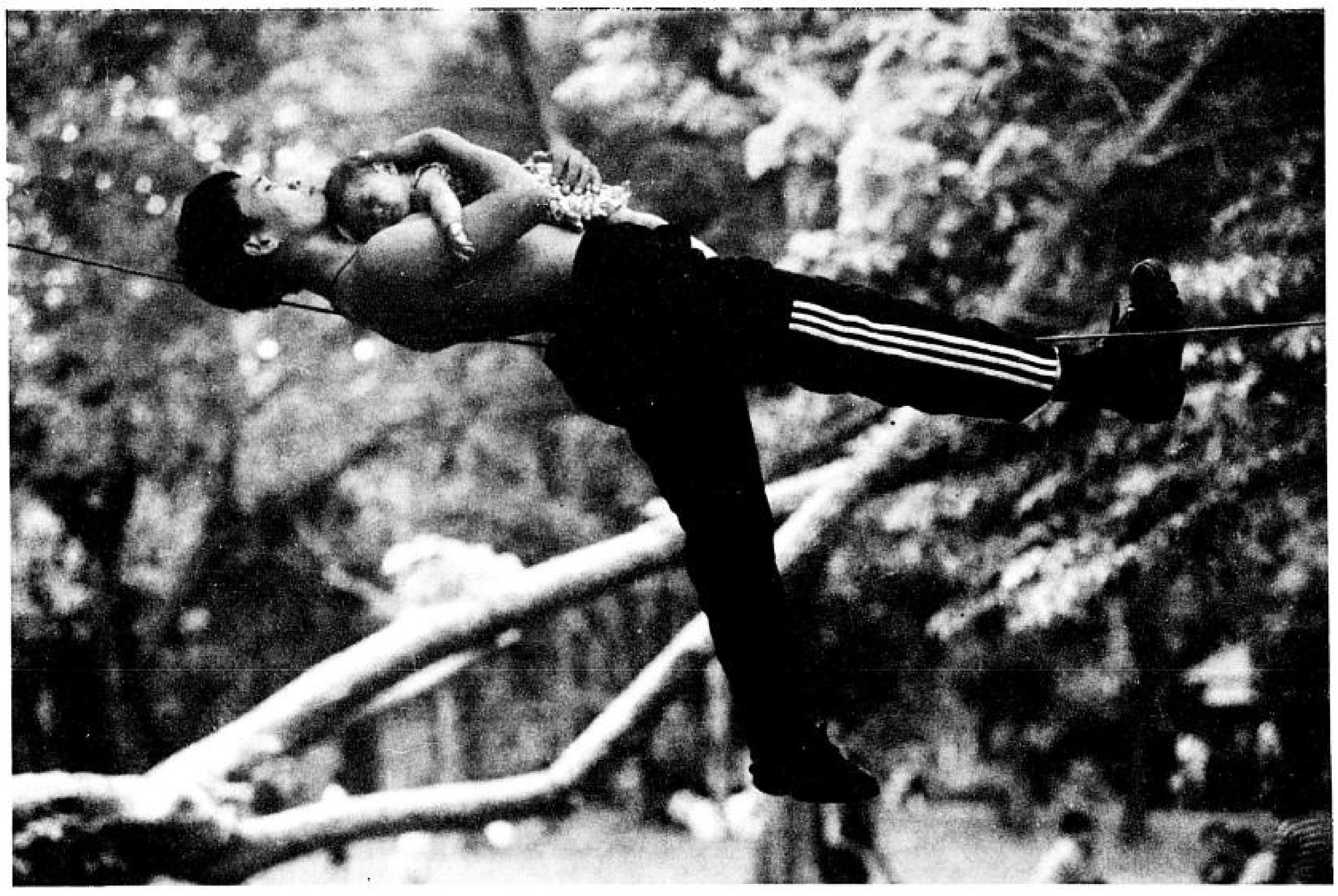
The mayor said only two structures would be built on the are allocated for the CCM campus. One is a four-story academic building with an area of 2,184 square meters in the southern side, and a four-story laboratory building with an area of 612 square meters in the northern portion.

The existing Sining ng Kayumanggi building, located on a 1,591-square-meter lot in the east, will be renovated and transformed into a two-story administration building.

"The total land area to be occupied (by these buildings) would be 4,387 square meters," Atienza explained.

He said the trees that would be dislocated by the structures would be relocated to the open spaces that would be maintained.

"This, we believe, is still the best way to preserve and enhance the character of Manila as a cultural, educational and government center as originally conceived by its planners," he added.



EDWIN BACASMAS

HIGH-WIRE LULLABY

Circus tightrope walker Rainier Atendido puts his daughter Mary Cris to sleep during a lull in his practice at the Manuel L. Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City. Chances are, the baby will grow up to be fearless of heights and just might end up a circus peformer, too.

Japanese with fake finger barred

A JAPANESE with a missing little finger was barred on Sunday by airport authorities from entering Manila on suspicion that he was a member of the Yakuza.

Masayuki Tomidokoro, 50, wore a fake rubber finger apparently to disguise that he was missing one. He was booked on a return flight to Narita, Japan after immigration officers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport profiled him to be a member of the Japan-based crime syndicate.

Tomidokoro's arms were also covered with tattoos, which are usually sported by Yakuza members, said senior intelligence officer Rudy David.

Takao Nagasawa, 48, and Junichi Tomita, 49, who were on the same flight with Tomidokoro, were also barred from entering Manila.

Airport authorities also suspect the two as members of the Yakuza, which are believed to be operating some nightclubs in Manila.

Tomidokoro, who was accompanied by his wife and a daughter and her friend, almost got through the immigration counter, said a report by immigration officer Jun Manahan.

Their escort, Ernesto Ramos, of the Airport Ground Operations Department (AGOD), presented their passports at the immigration counter.

Tomidokoro and his companions were already at the customs counter when the officer manning the counter alerted authorities.

TJ Burgonio

JV mum on demolition plan

By Agnes E. Donato

EJERCITO

SAN Juan Mayor-elect Joseph Victor Ejercito yesterday chose to keep mum on the reported plan of the local government to demolish the stalls at the temporary Agora public market.

Ejercito refused to give an official statement on the issue, saying he has no authority as yet to act on San Juan municipal affairs. He, however, promised to review the matter when he officially assumes his post on July 1.

About 1,000 disgruntled vendors earlier vowed to block any attempts to destroy their stalls because of the local government's failure to present a court order allowing the demolition.

They claimed that the basement of the newly built Agora Mall, where they are supposed to transfer, was not viable because they said it is prone to flooding and because of high rental rates, among other reasons.

Municipal lawyer Romualdo de los Santos and municipal administrator Francis Yenco were out of their offices when reporters tried to get their side on the allegedly illegal demolition plan.

But a member of De los Santos' staff, who refused to be identified, said the complaints and demands of the members of the Samahan ng mga Manininda sa Pamilihang Agora (Samapa) were unreasonable.

"The problem is that they (vendors) don't want to try first to do business in the place before they complain," the female staff member said. "They don't realize that their problems can be remedied if they cooperate and give us a chance."

Before he was jailed, incumbent Mayor Jinggoy Estrada reportedly met with Samapa officials and members to discuss their transfer to the new Agora but they failed to reach any agreement.

Another municipal hall employee claimed that parents and students at the San Juan Elementary School have been complaining about the stench from the wet section of the temporary market.

The temporary market is located in an empty lot at the back of the school.

In a news conference shortly after he was proclaimed winner in the May 14 elections, Ejercito said he would make the Agora case one of his priorities as mayor.

Old woman killed by jeepney

A 58-YEAR-OLD woman died after being run over by a speeding jeepney that ran away after the accident in Ermita, Manila early Sunday night.

SPO1 Mario Jorge of the city traffic police identified the victim as Luisita Mendoza, 58, married and a resident of 268 Ma. Clara St., Caloocan City. She was pronounced dead upon arrival at the Philippine General Hospital.

Mendoza was walking along the east-bound lane of TM Kalaw Street, near its intersection with Ma. Orosa Street, when a jeepney (NWS-906) driven by Felizardo Castro, 50, hit her.

She was thrown forward by the impact and then crushed by the jeepney's wheels. Castro, a resident of Jaylo Street, Makati City, was arrested and detained after being charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide.

Jerome Aning

Taxi operator arrested for preying on tourists

By TJ Burgonio

A TAXI operator, who has been suspected of picking up Japanese tourists at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and robbing them en route to their destinations in Manila, was arrested over the weekend while trying to convince another Japanese to ride his cab, police said yesterday.

Members of the Airport Police Department caught Rollen Bacay, 29, of BCDA, Taguig, at the public parking area in front of Naia terminal 1 about 3:30 p.m. Saturday.

Police said Bacay has been robbing arriving tourists, mostly Japanese, over the past few months.

At the time of his arrest, Bacay was identified through his file photo by one of his victims, a Malaysian whom he robbed of $350 and P4,500 on June 5, said Capt. Manuel Wong, acting chief investigator of the APD.

Bacay's arrest came after a frantic Gina Manguing reported to airport police that her Japanese friend, Naito Yoshiaki, who had arrived from Narita that Saturday afternoon, suddenly disappeared shortly after he exited the arrival lobby.

Manguing, escorted by Corporals Oscar Abuan and Elino Portacion of the APD, went to the restaurant and found Bacay there but not Yoshiaki. Manguing talked to Bacay, who told her Yoshiaki was at a restaurant inside the terminal.

The woman told police that Bacay also tried to convince Manguing and her Japanese friend to ride his car.

Sensing Bacay was lying about the whereabouts of Yoshiaki, Manguing flared up. This prompted the two policemen to question Bacay where he took the Japanese.

Bacay yielded and revealed the whereabouts of the Japanese.

When Yoshiaki was found, the policemen arrested Bacay and took him to the Pasay city prosecutor's office where he was charged with attempted kidnapping.

"If he were not arrested, that Japanese would have been (Bacay's) sixth victim in two months," Wong said.

Police said Bacay would usually approach an unsuspecting Japanese passenger inside the parking area and identify himself as a driver of the welcoming party. He would then drive the Japanese around Manila before robbing his victim of cash and valuables, Wong said.

Wong believed Bacay, who was fluent in Nippongo, operated with at least two cohorts. Police are now tracking them down, the APD investigator said.

Cop's slay is murder ...

(From page A19)

SPO4 Alejandro Valdez over a minor traffic row last week.

Supt. Benjardi Mantele, police chief, appealed to assistant prosecutor Ojer Pacis to sustain the murder case which police filed against businessmen Reynaldo Ramirez, 47, Fabian de la Cruz Jr., 35, and their driver Dave Neyra, 33.

Each suspect was allowed to post bail of P40,000, police said.

Mantele said he learned that the case against Ramirez, De la Cruz and Neyra was reduced to homicide because they did not have guns during the incident.

But Mantele added that his men have evidence to prove the suspects murdered Valdez, a member of the Caloocan Police Station 1 Intelligence Unit.

Last Friday, the three men allegedly killed the police officer using the victim's own service firearm in front of You and I videoke bar on Captain F. Samano Road in Almar, Camarin, Caloocan, police said.

The suspects' Mitsubishi Pajero was backing up in the parking area of the bar when Valdez's taxi accidentally hit the rear of the Pajero, investigation showed.

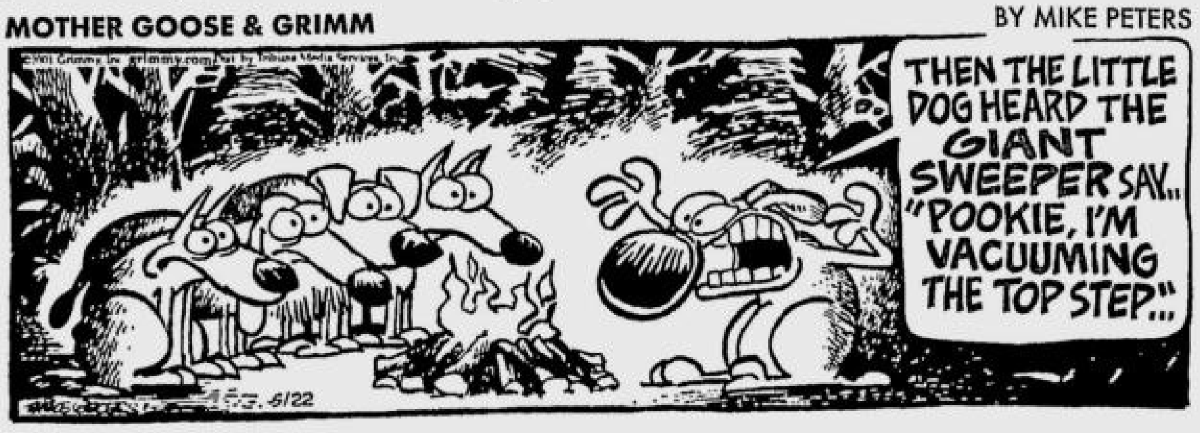
The three men had just left the bar where they celebrated the arrival from Japan of De la Cruz's daughter and her Japanese boyfriend, Mantele said.

Valdez, who was on his way home, approached the three men and introduced himself as a policeman, police said.

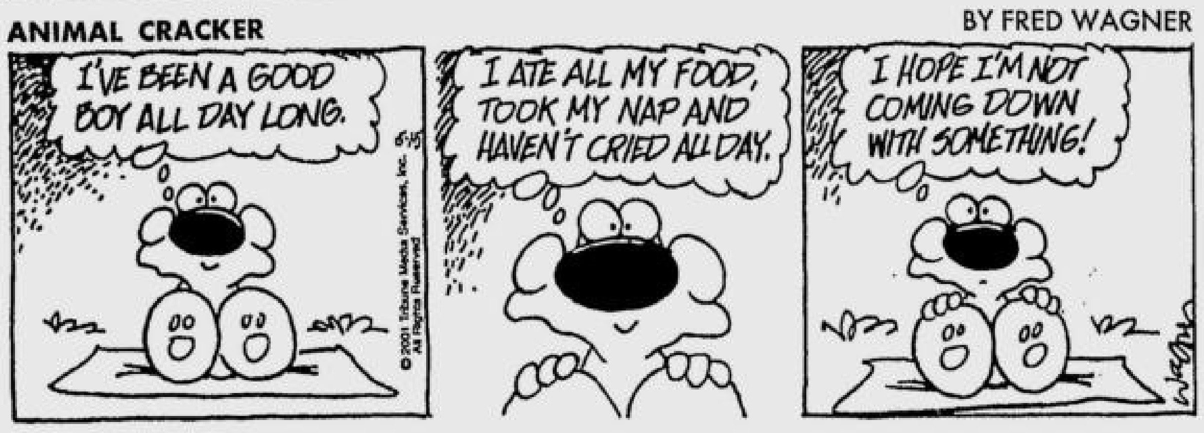
But the three men, who were reportedly drunk, ganged up on Valdez. One of the three men took the police officer's .45-caliber pistol from the holster and shot Valdez, police said.

The suspects fled after the shooting but were arrested shortly after by a mobile patrol unit. The victim died on his way to the Far Eastern University Hospital.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


THEN THE LITTLE DOG HEARD THE GIANT SWEEPER SAY... "POOKIE, I'M VACUUMING THE TOP STEP"...
6/22

ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER


I'VE BEEN A GOOD BOY ALL DAY LONG.
I ATE ALL MY FOOD, TOOK MY NAP AND HAVEN'T CRIED ALL DAY.
I HOPE I'M NOT COMING DOWN WITH SOMETHING!
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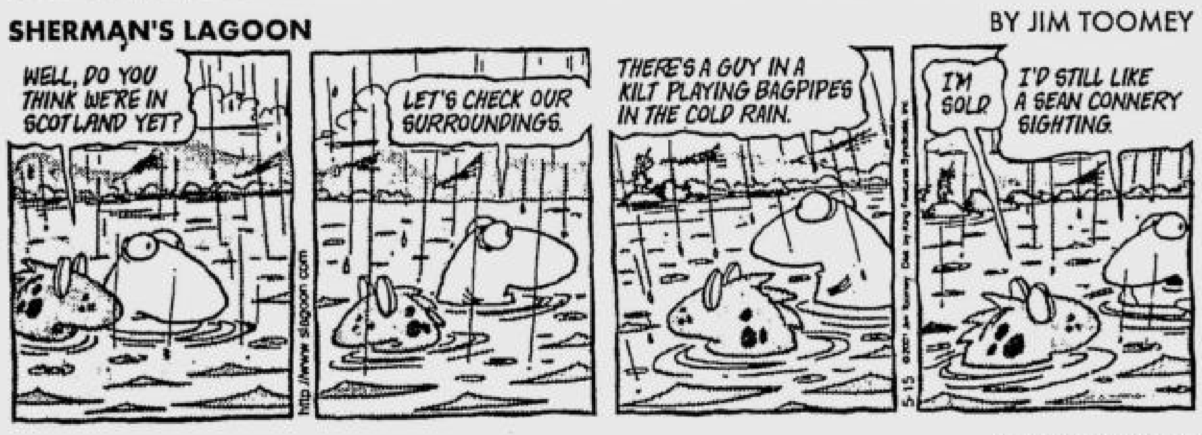
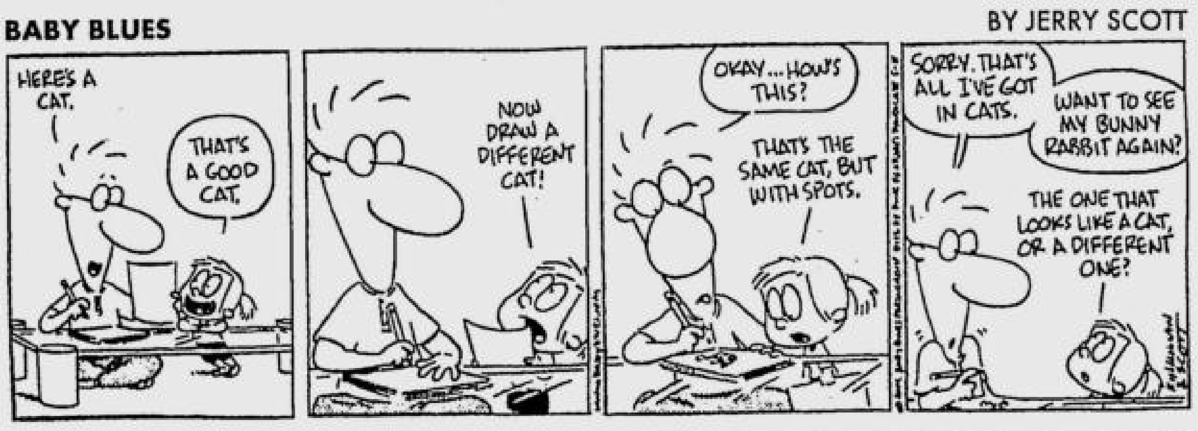
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


WELL, DO YOU THINK WE'RE IN SCOTLAND YET?
LET'S CHECK OUR SURROUNDINGS.
THERE'S A GUY IN A KILT PLAYING BAGPIPES IN THE COLD RAIN.
I'M SOLD
I'D STILL LIKE A SEAN CONNERY SIGHTING.
http://www.slagoon.com
5-15

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


HERE'S A CAT.
THAT'S A GOOD CAT.
NOW DRAW A DIFFERENT CAT!
OKAY... HOW'S THIS?
THAT'S THE SAME CAT, BUT WITH SPOTS.
SORRY. THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT IN CATS.
WANT TO SEE MY BUNNY RABBIT AGAIN?
THE ONE THAT LOOKS LIKE A CAT, OR A DIFFERENT ONE?

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kathleen Turner, Paula Abdul, Salman Rushdie, Phylicia Rashad, Gena Rowlands

Happy Birthday: Your excellent memory and great ideas will be invaluable in promoting yourself and your objectives this year. You may find yourself walking that fine line between success and failure on several occasions. If you take a humble approach, you'll move in a positive direction. Your numbers: 15, 23, 26, 33, 37, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Try to solve disputes with friends or relatives reasonably. An unrealistic assessment of your surroundings and life is probably the reason for the current state of confusion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Matters pertaining to work must be taken care of before you'll be able to relax. Your professional attitude will be under scrutiny. It's wise to put in some overtime if necessary.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Find a way to control your emotions. Instant retorts will result in remorse and long-lasting, devastating damage to your relationship.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You're not feeling up to par; depression is the likely cause. Don't hesitate to go out with friends if they call at the last minute. You need to get your mind off your troubles.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The information you gather from spending more time with outsiders will help you get a clearer view of your own situation. Be ready to have a heart-to-heart talk with your partner.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't become involved with people at work. You have enough going on without complicating matters even more. You could lose your job if you do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your need to get away is growing. Your personal life has been tiring, and changing your surroundings could be the answer. Get some professional help if you feel you've lost control.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Family members are likely to give you a hard time about the way you're handling personal matters. It's better not to include them in your plans if you wish to avoid interference.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you are evasive and refuse to discuss matters concerning your partner, you may find yourself all alone. You'd better do something quick or risk losing your mate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's a good idea to throw yourself into your work. It will help you forget about the problems at home. Your partner hasn't been that easy to live with.

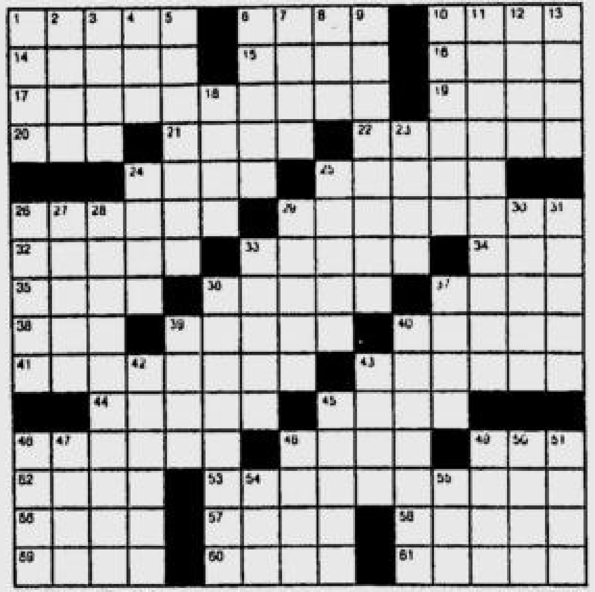
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Think about having some fun again. It's time to stop feeling so insecure and self-conscious. For a pick-me-up, listen to a motivational tape that will help you become more positive.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You're not likely to get any sympathy from loved ones. You've been playing both ends against the middle for some time now and it's time to face the music. Be prepared to compromise.

Birthday Baby: You are bright, quick and entertaining. Your creative ability and vision will lead to success as long as you focus on your goals and don't spread yourself too thin.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Edgar Fontaine
Dighton, MA

5/3/01

ACROSS
1 After, in Tours
6 Cabal unit
10 Take hold of
14 Signal interference
15 Type of code or rug
16 Take the bus
17 In confusion
19 "A Death in the Family" writer
20 That woman
21 Cathedral service
22 Nevertheless
24 Strike a stance
25 Sacred song sung a capella
26 Balloon fill
29 W. __ Maugham
32 Dim with tears
33 Sheik's women
34 Mai __ cocktail
35 Composer of "Carmina Burana"
36 Give the game away
37 Zodiac link
38 Witticism
39 Philosopher Kierkegaard
40 Coffeehouses
41 In a reluctant manner
43 Nuisance
44 Laxative drug
45 __ d'oeuvres
46 Goose's mate
48 Heroic tale
49 CD-__
52 Church calendar
53 Ultimate cost
56 Stead
57 Hautboy
58 Relieves
59 Pops
60 Putter's woe
61 Fertile loam

DOWN
1 Monsters of "Them!"
2 Fiddlesticks!
3 Ready to pick
4 Start of something?
5 Principal Skinner of "The Simpsons"
6 Induce
7 Goofs
8 Exod. follower
9 Church ladies
10 Kitchen utensil
11 Wolfe book, with "The"
12 Think-tank product
13 Banana wrapper?
18 Australian isl.
23 Bit of gossip
24 Singer Edith
25 Imbecile
26 Lettered weapon?
27 __ "Crazy Legs" Hirsch
28 Like Grove in Cooperstown
29 Fills completely
30 Art stand
31 Pie-eyed
33 __ to you!
36 Casanova's kid brother?
37 Scoundrels
39 Blackthorn
40 Chewy candy
42 "Brave New World" writer Huxley
43 Type of dancer
45 Detests
46 Precious metal
47 Operatic highlight
48 Word in an octagon
49 Get up
50 Binary digits
51 Muddle
54 Oriental sash
55 Thai Buddhist

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

F	I	D	O	■	W	A	D	E	R	■	S	H	E	D
I	R	O	N	■	A	L	O	N	E	■	C	O	L	E
R	A	G	E	■	G	O	O	S	E	C	H	A	S	E
E	N	G	I	N	E	E	R	■	V	E	E	R	E	D
■	■	■	I	D	O	L	S	■	H	E	L	M	■	■
C	R	E	A	T	E	■	M	Y	S	T	I	C	A	L
R	E	B	■	E	S	T	O	P	■	S	N	O	R	E
E	V	A	S	■	S	A	N	E	H	■	G	W	E	N
A	U	G	U	R	■	R	E	D	I	D	■	C	A	D
M	E	S	S	I	E	S	T	■	V	O	C	A	L	S
■	■	■	A	L	A	I	■	T	A	R	O	T	■	■
A	T	O	N	E	R	■	B	A	L	A	N	C	E	S
B	U	N	N	Y	T	R	A	I	L	■	T	H	A	I
C	L	E	A	■	H	E	D	G	E	■	R	E	S	T
S	A	S	H	■	S	T	E	A	D	■	A	R	T	S

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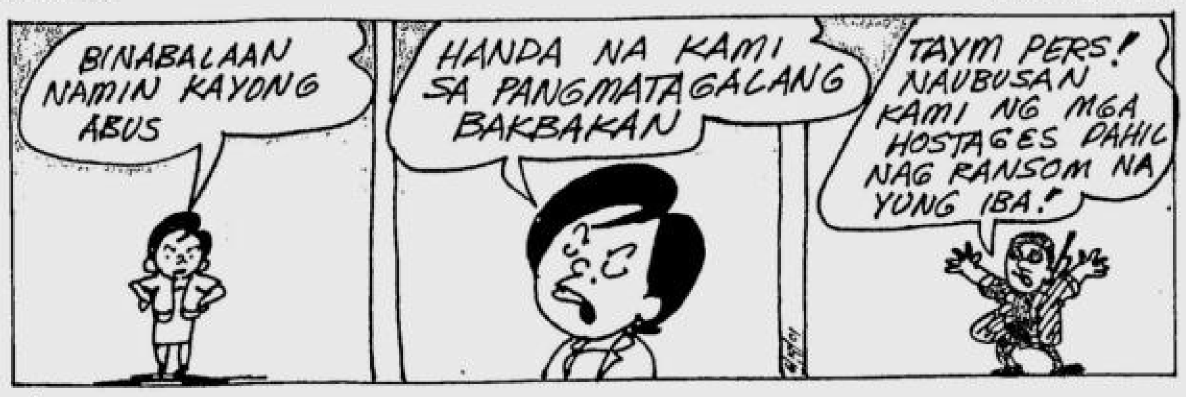
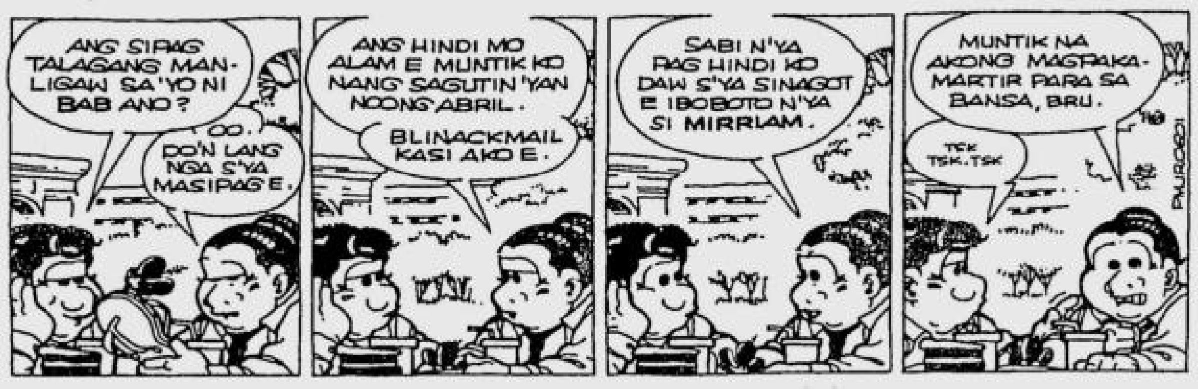
5/3/01

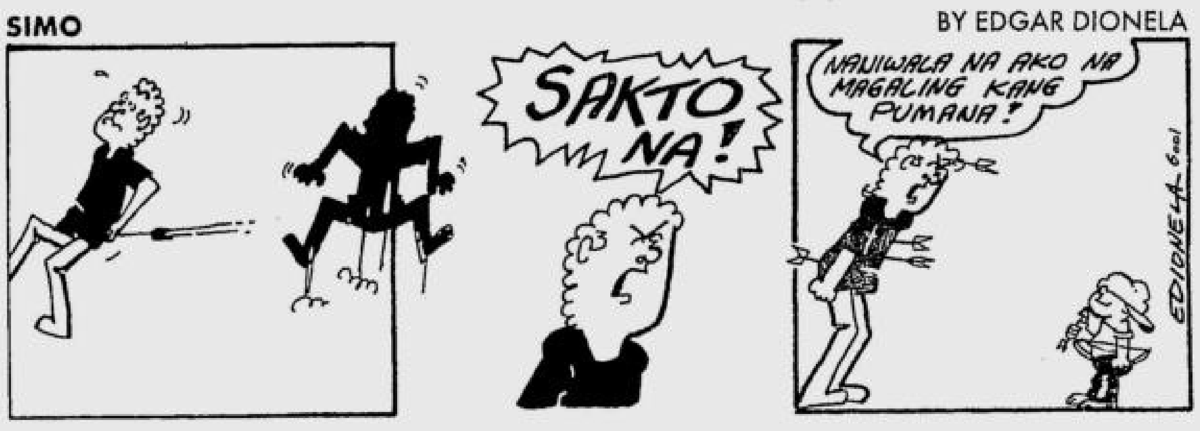
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


BINABALAAN NAMIN KAYONG ABUS
HANDA NA KAMI SA PANGMATAGALANG BAKBAKAN
TAYM PERS! NAUBUSAN KAMI NG MGA HOSTAGES DAHIL NAG RANSOM NA YUNG IBA!

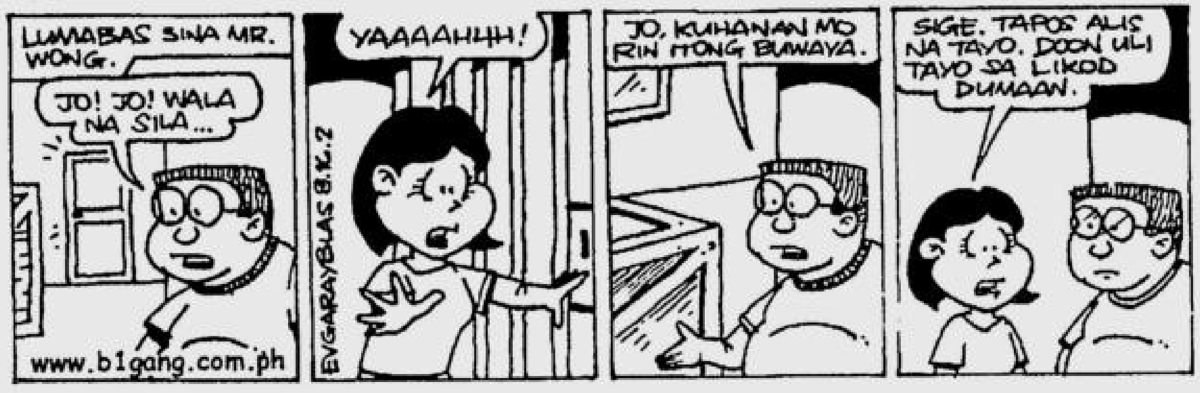
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG SIPAG TALAGANG MANLIGAW SA'YO NI BAB ANO?
OO. DO'N LANG NGA S'YA MASIPAG E.
ANG HINDI MO ALAM E MUNTIK KO NANG SAGUTIN 'YAN NOONG ABRIL.
BLINACKMAIL KASI AKO E.
SABI N'YA PAG HINDI KO DAW S'YA SINAGOT E IBOBOTO N'YA SI MIRRIAM.
MUNTIK NA AKONG MAGPAKA-MARTIR PARA SA BANSA, BRU.
TSK TSK.TSK
PMJR2001

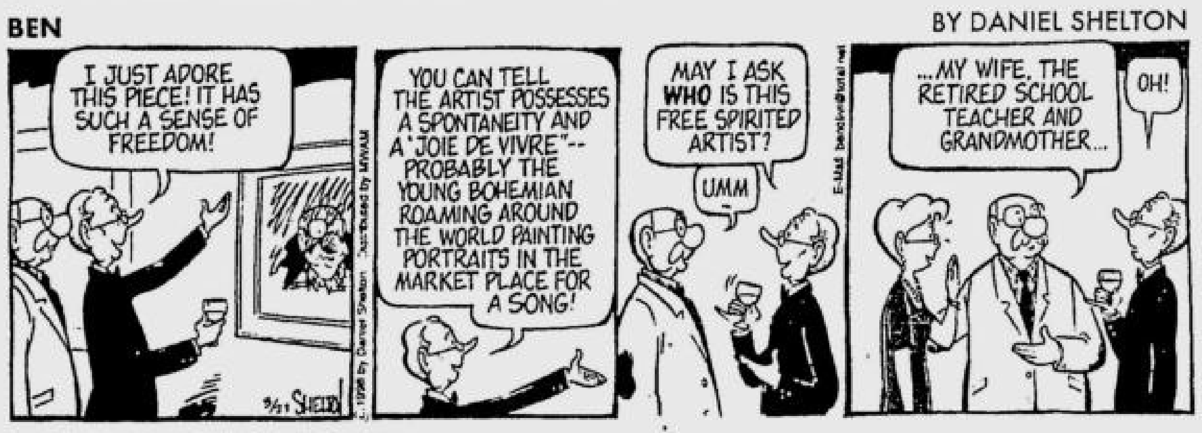
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


SAKTO NA!
NANIWALA NA AKO NA MAGALING KANG PUMANA!
EDIONELA 6-01

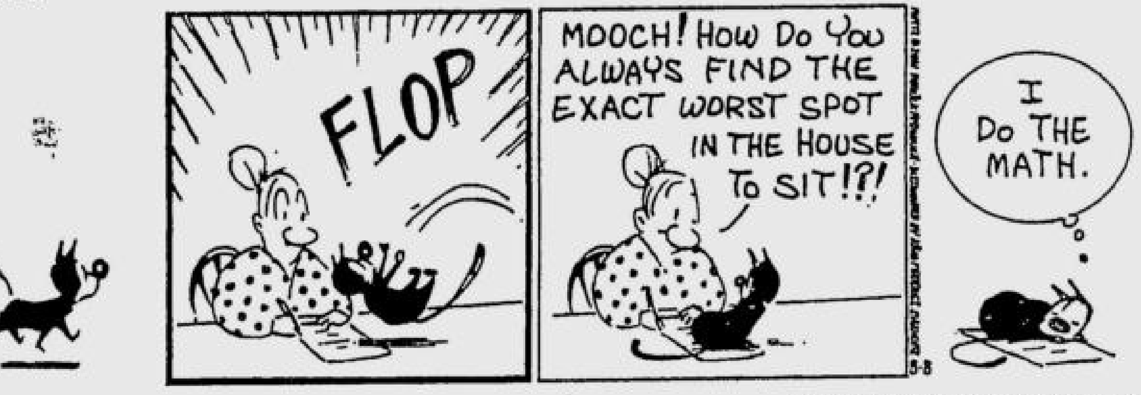
B1 GANG BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


LUMABAS SINA MR. WONG.
JO! JO! WALA NA SILA...
www.b1gang.com.ph
YAAAAHHH!
EVGARAYBLAS B.K.2
JO, KUHANAN MO RIN ITONG BUWAYA.
SIGE. TAPOS ALIS NA TAYO. DOON ULI TAYO SA LIKOD DUMAAN.

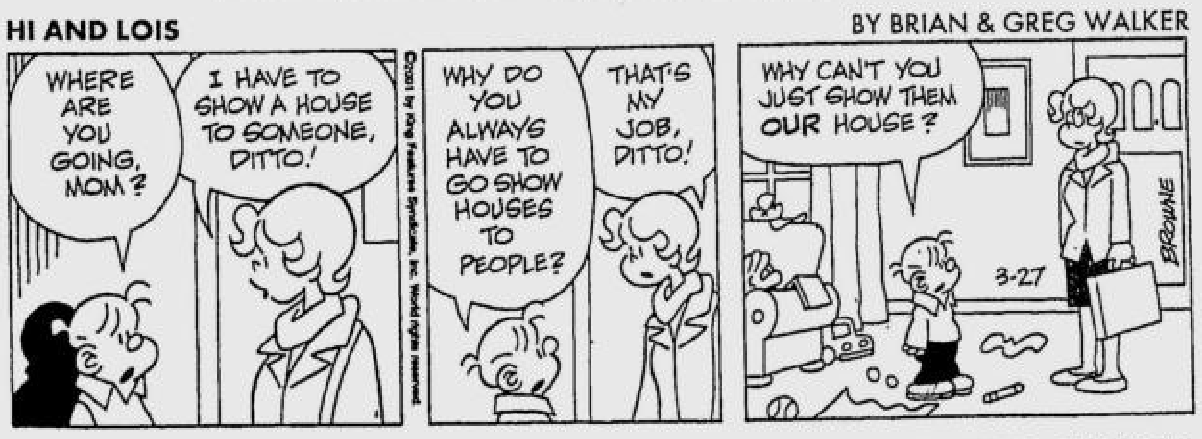
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


I JUST ADORE THIS PIECE! IT HAS SUCH A SENSE OF FREEDOM!
YOU CAN TELL THE ARTIST POSSESSES A SPONTANEITY AND A "JOIE DE VIVRE"-- PROBABLY THE YOUNG BOHEMIAN ROAMING AROUND THE WORLD PAINTING PORTRAITS IN THE MARKET PLACE FOR A SONG!
MAY I ASK WHO IS THIS FREE SPIRITED ARTIST?
UMM
...MY WIFE, THE RETIRED SCHOOL TEACHER AND GRANDMOTHER...
OH!

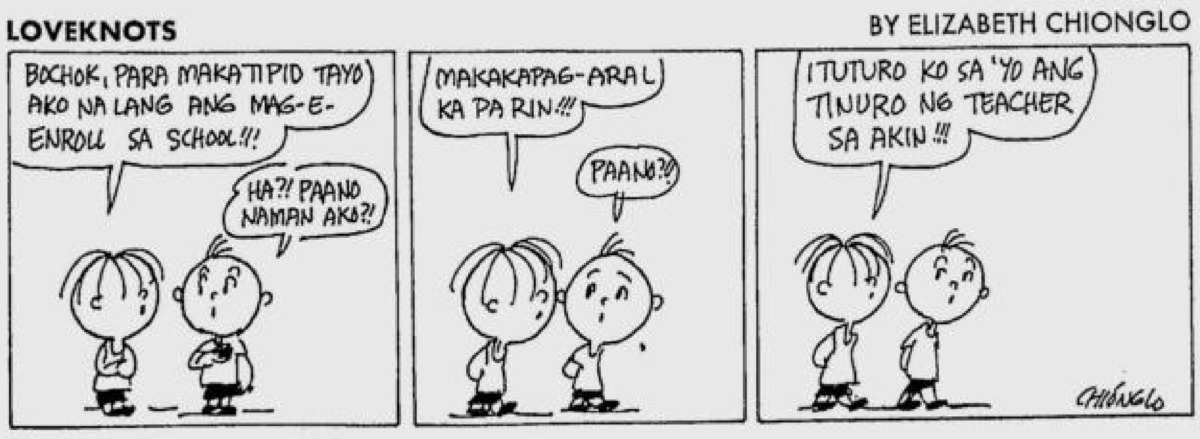
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


FLOP
MOOCH! HOW DO YOU ALWAYS FIND THE EXACT WORST SPOT IN THE HOUSE TO SIT!?!
I DO THE MATH.
5-8

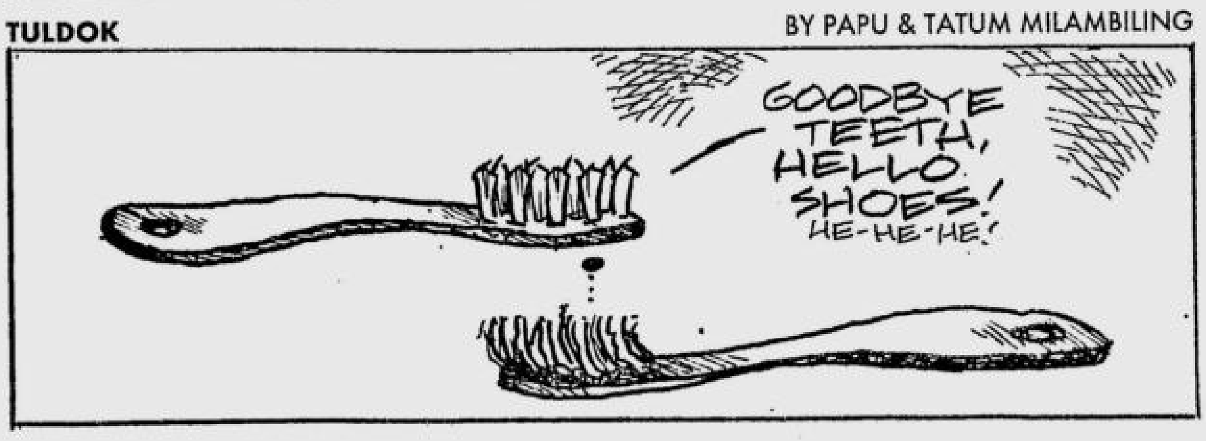
HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MOM?
I HAVE TO SHOW A HOUSE TO SOMEONE, DITTO!
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO GO SHOW HOUSES TO PEOPLE?
THAT'S MY JOB, DITTO!
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST SHOW THEM OUR HOUSE?
BROWNE
3-27

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BOCHOK, PARA MAKATIPID TAYO AKO NA LANG ANG MAG-E-ENROLL SA SCHOOL!!!
HA?! PAANO NAMAN AKO?!
MAKAKAPAG-ARAL KA PA RIN!!!
PAANO?!
ITUTURO KO SA 'YO ANG TINURO NG TEACHER SA AKIN!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


GOODBYE TEETH, HELLO SHOES!
HE-HE-HE!

‘Beh Bote Nga’ goes to HK, China

By Leah Salterio

BRINGING a group of nearly 40 people abroad is no joke, especially when the group includes a production team complete with cameras, lights, boom mikes, videocams and other tools needed for videotaping.

But GMA 7 has done it so often, taping episodes abroad, that it has become fun for members of the entourage.

“We’ve proven that when the show is taped out of the country, more viewers watch it because they probably enjoy the sites,” says GMA assistant vice president for production Marivin Arayata. “We make it a point to capture the scenic spots during tapings because they surely attract viewers.

“So even when the show is already rating, we get an even higher rating when the episode is taped out of the country.”

Last February, GMA brought the stars and the production crew of its sitcom, “Kool Ka Lang,” which stars Joey Marquez and Raymart Santiago to Bangkok, Thailand. The Bangkok escapade was aired as a two-part special and earned high ratings.

Prior to the Bangkok adventure, “Kool Ka Lang” went to Puerto Galera in Mindoro last year.

Early this month, GMA brought a group to Hong Kong and China to tape its other primetime top-rater, “Beh Bote Nga.” The cast is led by Anjo Yllana and Janno Gibbs, with Anna Roces, Jake Roxas, Danilo Barrios, child star Goyong and veterans Dick Israel, Bella Flores and Tiya Pusit.

Bong Revilla’s sitcom, “Ikol Ko si Kap,” taped at the Fontana Resort in Clark Field, Pampanga.

The wacky stars of “Bubble Gang” brought their gags to Palawan.

“GMA Love Stories” aired a week-long summer special shot in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte.

The Sunday noontime show “SOP” and the hip teenage *barkada* in “Clique” went to Boracay.

“Kiss Muna” went to Cebu.

Bringing the entire cast, production staff and crew out of the country obviously means a huge expense, what with the meals, accommodations and transportation provided for the many members of the group.

“But when we tape out of the country, we air it for two episodes, so the cost of the trip is easily recovered,” explains Wilma Galvante, GMA vice president for production.

The “Beh Bote Nga” team—from director Uro de la Cruz down to his writers and production assistants—was obviously prepared for the out-of-the-country taping.

An advance party led by Arayata was in Hong Kong for a day to secure permits and to coordinate with the travel agency that facilitated the trip.

On the day the cast and the rest of the production staff and crew arrived, they were ready with the script and the sequence guides.

At the sprawling Chep Lak Kok airport, the crew lost no time in shooting a few scenes with the stars of the sitcom. The sequences continued in the tourist bus that fetched the group from the airport. The nearly one-hour trip from Chek Lap Kok to Kowloon gave them more than enough time to shoot material for one sequence.

Some of the scenes shot in Hong Kong featured Victoria Peak with its famous tram, Repulse Bay, the Star Ferry and the Hong Kong night life.

In the story, *Aling* Tweety (Tiya Pusit) and *Mang* Max (Dick Israel) win a free trip to Hong Kong. Ana Roces, an international flight stewardess, brings her Lola Bella (Flores) to Hong Kong. Rich kids Tom (Jake Roxas) and Bong (Danilo Barrios) decide to accompany Ana.

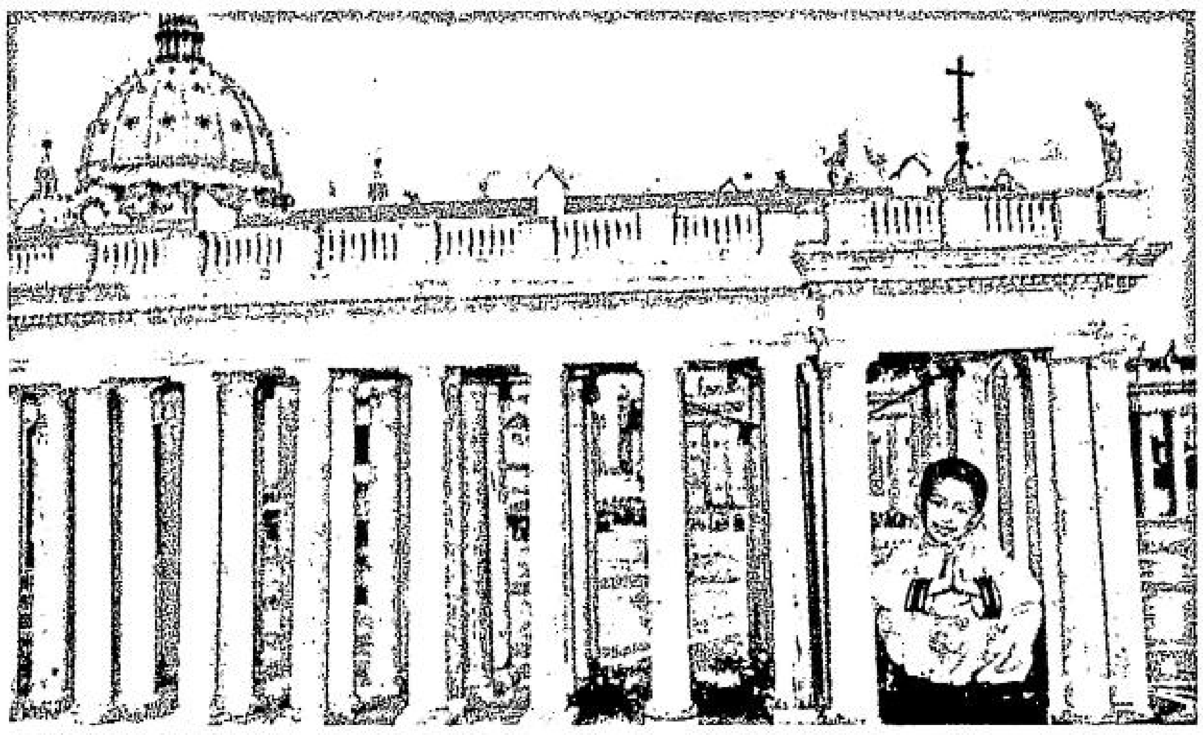
Tot (Anjo Yllana) gets jealous and demands that Genie Goyong bring him and his brother Kot (Janno) to Hong Kong.

Then the fun begins.

After Bangkok, Hong Kong and China, GMA is planning more special episodes to be shot in Guam and Singapore.

GMA will air the two-part “Beh Bote Nga” episode on June 20 and 27, 7:30 to 9 p.m.

CASTING CALL. (From left) Dick Israel, Bella Flores, Danilo Barrios, Janno Gibbs, Anna Roces, Anjo Yllana, Jake Roxas and Tiya Pusit.



GOYONG IN GUANDONG. Child star plays in theme park.

‘DIREK’ TO THE POINT. Director Uro de la Cruz (second from right) gives instructions to Anjo Yllana (back to camera) and the other cast members.

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6	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	PEARL HARBOR
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9	DOLBY SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
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11	DOLBY SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	SPOT

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5	DOLBY DIGITAL	GET OVER IT
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PEARL HARBOR
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SPOT
8	DOLBY SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
10	DOLBY SURROUND	MAGENTA
11	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE
12	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR

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3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
10	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SPOT

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4	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
5	DOLBY SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
7	DTS	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	PEARL HARBOR
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MAGENTA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TRAFFIC
12	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	GET OVER IT
2	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PEARL HARBOR
4	ULTRA SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
7	ULTRA SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE REPLICANT
9	ULTRA SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
10	ULTRA SURROUND	SPOT

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MAGENTA

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
2	ULTRA SURROUND	VALENTINE
3	ULTRA SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	15 MINUTES
5	ULTRA SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
7	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS

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3	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
5	ULTRA SURROUND	TRAFFIC
6	ULTRA SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
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2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO

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5 SPOT in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 HEAD OVER HEELS in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 THE MUMMY RETURNS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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3 HEAD OVER HEELS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 SPOT in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 THE REPLICANT in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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4 GOLD (DTS) SPOT
5 GOLD (DOLBY) PEARL HARBOR
6 GOLD (SDDS) HEAD OVER HEELS
7 GOLD (DOLBY) PEARL HARBOR
8 [illegible] THE REPLICANT
9 [illegible] GET OVER IT
10 [illegible] BUHAY KAMAO

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4 RESERVE
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2 BUHAY KAMAO
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6 (DOLBY) PEARL HARBOR
7 (DTS) THE MUMMY RETURNS
8 LABRADOR
9 MAGENTA

Commonwealth
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2 BUHAY KAMAO
3 THE REPLICANT
4 MAGENTA
5 (SDDS) PEARL HARBOR
6 HEAD OVER HEELS
7 (DOLBY) PEARL HARBOR
8 GET OVER IT

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2 BUHAY KAMAO
3 (DTS) SPOT
4 GET OVER IT
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4 BUHAY KAMAO
5 SPOT

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3 LABRADOR
4 THE REPLICANT
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3 PEARL HARBOR
4
5

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5 ANGEL EYES

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ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
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QUEZON-1	BUHAY KAMAO
REMAR	BUHAY KAMAO
REMAR-2	MAGENTA

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OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA

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CINEMA-2	FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

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CINEMA-2	LABRADOR
CINEMA-3	TRAFFIC
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-6	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-7	BUHAY KAMAO
CINEMA-8	ANTS IN THE PANTS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SPOT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-12	REPLICANT
CINEMA-14	GET OVER IT
CINEMA-15	HEAD OVER HEELS

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	GET OVER IT
CINEMA-2	SPOT
CINEMA-3	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-4	HEAD OVER HEELS
CINEMA-5	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-6	THE MUMMY RETURNS

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-2	ANG GUSTO KO SA LALAKE
CINEMA-4	KATAWAN

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-2	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
CINEMA-4	BUHAY NA MANIKIN

CNBC Asia airs on 11

THE COUNTRY'S premier Christian station, Zoe Broadcasting Network (VHF Channel 11), will air CNBC Asia starting today after signing up a Singapore-based TV content provider to take over full management and programming control aimed at establishing a niche for itself in the upscale TV market.

In a memorandum of agreement, Entertainment Network Limited (Enternet), assumed control last month anchored on the theme, "Change the World."

Enternet has also entered into a programming contract with CNBC Asia, Europe's first live, global business channel and the first to be backed by the powerful resources of NBC and Dow Jones, for Channel 11 for an initial period until February 2002.

It aims to put in local content in the form of news advisories by August this year and increase local programming by as much as 30 percent by March 2002.

Entertainment Network is a developmental stage company focused on providing content to the different elements of convergence technologies. It features a team of award-winning film and TV producers and media/entertainment and technology executives providing expertise in both the use of broadcast infrastructure and the production of creative content.

Enternet's chief executive officer Joselito Saddul said this joint venture aims to enable the station to establish a foothold in the highly competitive commercial TV industry in the Philippines by focusing on its target market of viewers between the ages of 18 and 45 years old. It also seeks to expand and improve the transmission of Channel 11 to initially cover the "advertiser corridor" spanning North and Southern Luzon.

Channel 11 does not require a cable subscription and airs on free TV. It is owned by Zoe Broadcasting Network, Inc., headed by Bro. Eddie Villanueva of the Jesus is Lord (JIL) religious community.

The station airs an average of 10 hours daily, with majority of its content consisting of inspirational Christian programming. Its coverage is limited only to the greater Manila area.

The clients of Enternet are some of leading players in the satellite and broadcasting industry in the region, among them HBO Asia, AXN, Cinemax, Mediaworks (Singapore), Astro TV and NTV 7 (Malaysia), PTV 4 and Solar Entertainment Channel (Philippines).

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Tessie lines up anniversary show

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

A FEW years ago, **Tessie Tomas** quit her top-rating daytime show, "Teysi ng Tahanan" in favor of a less hectic life with her new husband, **Roger Pullin**. Tessie's fans were glad that she had found happiness once more, but missed seeing her on the tube.

She was a hard habit to kick because, aside from "Teysi ng Tahanan," she was all over the TV screen in other shows that spotlighted her versatility as a TV and film performer:

In the dramatic series, "Sa Sandaling Kailangan Mo Ako," she played a vicious *kontrabida*. In comedy-oriented shows like "Abangan ang Susunod ng Kabanata" and "Onli in da Pilipinas," she elicited laughter along with the best comics in the land.

In the TV mini-series, "A Dangerous Life," she portrayed **Imelda Marcos**. In "Companero y "Companera," she handled public affairs issues. And she also appeared in feature films like "Narinig Mo Na Ba ang Latest."

Tessie joshes, "The only TV show format I haven't done is the newscast!" Well, give her time, and she could add even that to her list of program types!

In any case, after she left TV, Tessie had a great time devoting herself to her husband, herself, and their life together. But her fans kept urging her to come back to the small tube, even if in only one show.

So, she eventually relented and agreed to do the "sequel sitcom," "Eto na ang Susunod na Kabanata." Once again, she plays **Barbara Tengco**, the scheming wife of a corrupt congressman. Just a few weeks ago, Barbara won in the elections and is now a senator in her own right!

In addition, Tessie also gave her nod to hosting the Saturday morning show, "Feel at Home" on Channel 2. The lively and informative program features celebrity homes, recipes and home arts and crafts.

Two TV shows a week keep Tessie on her toes, but give her enough time for her family, so she now has the best of both worlds.

By October, however, she'll be back on "hectic" mode once more because she's putting up a big show to mark her 20th year in the biz.

What will the show be about? Tessie is keeping her cards close to her chest, but allows that she'll be doing a montage of her "signature" characters, like **Amanda Pineda**, **Bonnie Buendia** and, of course, **Meldita**—plus some new zanies.

Our personal request is that Tessie do her celebrated "one-on-one" impersonations of two presidential daughters, **Imee** and **Kris**, shooting the breeze and dishing the dirt with each other.

We first suggested this scene concept to Tessie many years ago for a show she did in a small venue, and the way she fleshed out the difficult scene was simply wonderful.

It would be great if Tessie revived the number in her big anniversary show, even if Imee and Kris' folks are no longer presidents. It could be done as-is as a nostalgic number, to recall the great lengths Tessie went to come up with her show-stopping impersonations!

'Gold Fever'

REPORTS have it that two Hollywood movie companies want to acquire the film rights to "Gold Fever," **Tom Stern**'s book on the search for the legendary Yamashita Treasure in the Philippines.

The heart-pounding saga was feted at a party celebrating its publication in Manila on June 16.

Incidentally, the names of some of the people involved in the treasure hunt have been changed so as not to expose their mode of operation. Stern wryly observes, "If the book had been published in its original form, my life expectancy would almost certainly have been reduced to a matter of days.

Two more sequels

SEQUELS are usually planned after hit movies have pretty much run their course on the mainstream film circuit, but the sequels to "Shrek" and "Tomb Raider" are another case completely: They were decided on even before the two movies opened their regular run.

Their producers decided to do sequels early in the game because the two films registered very strongly in preview screenings.

The "Shrek" sequel is being written by **Ted Elliott** and **Terry Rossio**, who co-wrote the screenplay for the first "Shrek" movie.

Since animated features take years to make, the "Shrek" sequel is expected to reach movie screens in 2004.

Meanwhile, the sequel to "Tomb Raider," with **Angelina Jolie** cast as heroine **Lara Croft**, was decided on even while shooting was going on for the original film.

Both Jolie and director **Simon West** had a great time making the movie, and saw that the film's format had a lot of other possibilities that could be developed in future installments of what looks like a very popular action-adventure-fantasy film format.

TOMAS. Marks her 20th year in show biz

Dumb things that movie stars do

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

I HAD a good laugh reading the book "Movie Stars Do the Dumbest Things," by **Margaret Moser**, **Michael Bertin** and **Bill Crawford**, lent to me by my new-found friend **Adjeng Sarmiento**, who writes for the website Musika Manila. I had so much fun that I'm toying with the idea of coming up with a local version.

The things I've seen off-cam. If only the walls could speak. Since my mom has been in show biz for quite some time, I've been exposed to all sorts of scandals starting at an early age. I would hear actresses/actors confessing to my mom and asking for advice.

That's probably why nothing really shocks me anymore. You can call me shockproof.

Before I share with you excerpts from the book, I'll give you a teaser of what I intend to write about our local stars when I'm old and gray. I should write the book when I'm very old so that no one would bother to sue me.

Sorry I can't reveal their identities. But who knows, if you e-mail me I just might give you a little hint...

- A dramatic actress once pretended she had no voice when students from an exclusive school started interviewing her in English. She signaled to them that they should interview her girl Friday instead.
- A singer was waving to her fans who were mobbing her while her car was moving. She was smiling but little did the fans know that she was cursing them because she was afraid her car would be dented or scratched.
- A comedian asked her TV host friend to send her a dozen roses with a note that said "I love you more than he does" so as to make her straying boyfriend jealous.
- A young star has a penchant for displaying the gorgeous actors she goes out with. For the guys it's mere friendship but the actress always assumes that the actors desire her. Once, she asked a young actor to accompany her to a function but the actor somehow felt he was being used, so when the actress got off the car, he told her, "Just call me when you're done," and he drove away.
- A sexy star answered the phone. When the caller asked for her, she replied "Yes, talking."
- A TV host kept bragging that the ring he gave his actress girlfriend cost a fortune, but the owner of a jewelry store told me that it was only zirconian and that she got the shock of her life when she read in the papers that the actor claimed he bought it from a pricey designer store abroad.

And here's the Hollywood version, from the book I immensely enjoyed reading.

- The early **Hugh Grant** vehicle "Maurice" (1987) enjoyed decent success in London. Grant casually strolled up and down in front of theaters where the film was playing, in hopes of being recognized and fawned over by female fans.
- When **Catherine Zeta-Jones** first got to Hollywood, she was a bit intimidated. Staying at a friend's place in Malibu, she confessed, "I was so scared I slept in the closet."
- **Drew Barrymore** wanted to get close to her pet cat, really close. She vowed, "If I die before him, I want a little of my ashes put in his food so I can live inside him."
- **Greta Garbo** accepted an invitation to go to actress **Tallulah Bankhead**'s house for dinner. She arrived at Bankhead's place with a black wig, a Chinese dress and Orientalized eyes. "So solly," Greta slurred in a Sino-Scandinavian accent, "but Miss Garbo will not be able to join you. She sent me instead."
- On a flight from New York to London, **Arnold Schwarzenegger** pulled out a stack of magazines and started reading them, out loud.
- On the set of "Moonlighting," **Bruce Willis** upset costar **Cybill Shepherd** by dropping his pants continually and mooning the cast and crew with his hairy butt. Years later Shepherd said he "could probably use some of his hair now on his head."
- **Demi Moore** hired three cameramen to film the birth of her first baby. As the infant's head appeared, Moore shouted, "Are you getting this?"
- After a dinner in Greece, **Barbra Streisand** followed local custom and smashed her empty dinner plate against a wall. A razor sharp piece of plate came flying back at her and cut a 7-inch gash in her foot. Streisand ended up on crutches.
- **Leonardo di Caprio** refused to attend the Oscar ceremony the year of "Titanic" (1997). He left a message on director **James Cameron**'s machine saying "It just ain't me, bro."
- **Denzel Washington** took his seat on a plane but was annoyed to find someone sitting next to him. He complained to the stewardess, "I thought I was going to sit alone." "You are alone." The man beside Denzel snarled "I don't know who you are. I don't care and I don't plan to talk to you!" The Oscar winner pouted for the rest of the flight.

For feedback, e-mail *wateringhole2000@yahoo.com*

'Moulin Rouge' soundtrack: One hot show

BY POCH CONCEPCION

REVIEW

PICTURE this: Nicole Kidman flirting in a cabaret version of "Material Girl" and Ewan McGregor emoting in a grand, maudlin interpretation of "Your Song."

There's more. Actually, lots of surprises by way of back-to-the-future type readings of "Lady Marmalade," "Children of the Revolution" and "Diamond Dogs," among others. Of course it could only be a soundtrack album.

We haven't seen the movie yet. But from advance word, it seems like "Moulin Rouge" is going be one hot show. Like the nightclub it was named after.

It's a musical film, except that director Baz Luhrmann ("Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet") is said to have taken one step further, attempting to "engage audiences and encourage them to participate in the tale."

In this case, it's a 20th century retelling of classic Greek mythology: Orpheus descending into hell to save his beloved Eurydice, only to lose her again. The setting, circa 1900: the sleazy Moulin Rouge nightclub in Paris. The plot: A writer named Christian (McGregor) visits Paris in search of love. He meets Satine (Kidman), the star diva of Moulin Rouge who ignores all the men pursuing her—until she falls for Christian.

The twist: This love-won, love-lost story is played out through music—substituting script lines with pop lyrics from immortal songs originally written by such legendary names as John Lennon and Paul McCartney, David Bowie, Brian Eno, Marc Bolan, Will Jennings, Jack Nitzsche, Elton John and Bernie Taupin, with Madonna, Dolly Parton, Phil Collins, Bono and the Edge, Sting, and Jose Feliciano thrown in for good measure.

So while waiting for the movie, here's more dish about the soundtrack:

Even as lead stars McGregor and Kidman get to warble in several cuts, there are real musicians and singers who were asked to pitch in their talents.

Nice examples: Fatboy Slim startling us in "Because We Can" which is said to have figured in a lavish can-can production number. Christina Aguilera, Li'l Kim, Mya and Pink jamming in a sort of striptease manner in "Lady Marmalade." Bono actually leading some guest artists in the rocking T-Rex original, "Children of the Revolution."

But perhaps the more significant matter here is the way by which snippets of song lyrics are mixed together in orchestral fashion, leaving us to imagine what probable kind of scene they would fade in.

In the movie, much of the story is said to unfold in Satine's dressing room, which is designed to resemble a giant elephant. That is why, in the soundtrack, we get to hear "Elephant Love Medley" which has Kidman and McGregor exchanging romantic vibes via "All You Need is Love," "I Was Made for Lovin' You," "One More Night," "Pride (In The Name of Love)," "Don't Leave Me This Name," "Silly Love Songs," "Up Where We Belong," "Heroes" and "I Will Always Love You."

Amusing bit: We wonder what the scenario is like in "El Tango de Roxanne" which fans of the Police might find weird, owing to the near-perfect original reggae version they remember best.

Whatever, the soundtrack that is "Moulin Rouge" (Interscope/Universal) should keep us hooked on the fact that music, more than anything else, heightens the mood and atmosphere in any story. To quote Luhrmann: "Music unites us no matter what the boundaries. It transcends time and geography . . . and does have a power beyond words."

Enough said.

KIDMAN

Latin night at Rockwell

THE ROCKWELL Club will present "Latin Night," a one evening affair of hot music and food featuring salsa queen Mai Castro at its fine dining restaurant Fernando's, June 19.

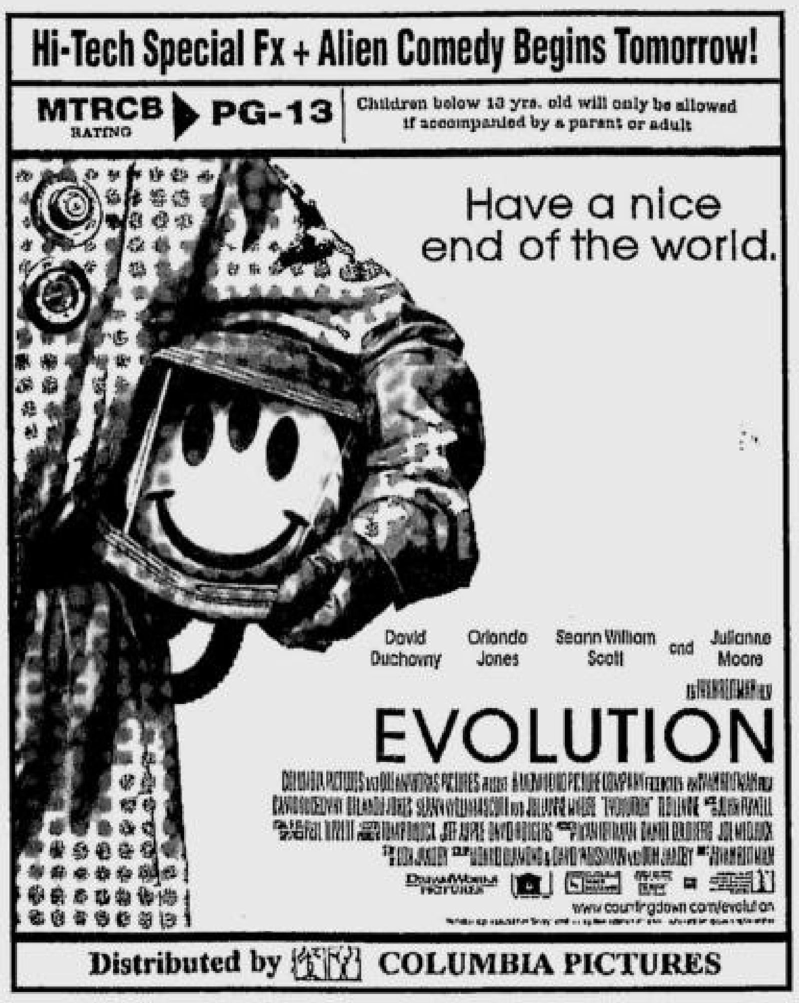
Guests will enjoy Mai's engaging voice accompanied by a percussionist and pianist in an evening of Latin music.

Mai has previously headlined many popular hotel clubs, restaurants and lounges including the Manila Hotel's Tap Room, Westin Philippine Plaza's Lobby, Hyatt Regency's Calesa Bar, Peninsula Manila's Conservatory, Shangri-La Makati's Conways Bar, Manila Galleria Suites' Monet and New World Hotel's Cats.

Popularly known as the Thalia of the Philippines, Mai began her career as a singer on an Australian cruise ship.

Reservations are required for The Rockwell Club members and guests. Dinner starts 7 p.m., show is 9 p.m. Call The Rockwell Club at 897-8910.

CASTRO. Tagged as the "Thalia of the Philippines."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HEAD OVER HEELS - P 13 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00	PEARL HARBOR - P 13 11:00, 2:30, 6:00, 9:30	MUMMY RETURNS - P 13 11:10, 1:35, 4:00

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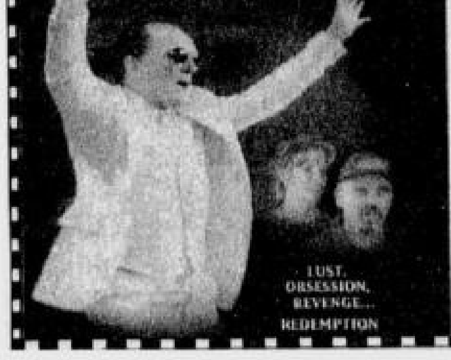
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ROBERT DUVALL
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After being squeezed out of his church by his ex-wife, a Texas fundamentalist preacher's alcohol-fueled rage sends him off the deep end. After beating her new beau into a coma, he flees to Louisiana and seizes the chance to reinvent himself as a devout "Apostle," founding a new church and captivating the citizenry while keeping his sins buried. Duvall, who also wrote and produced, is riveting in the title role.
ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATION
Best Actor - Robert Duvall

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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Peso breaches 52-to-$1 level

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE PESO yesterday tumbled to 52.05 to $1, its lowest under the Macapagal administration, before closing at 51.975 on account of the unresolved Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis and dimming economic prospects.

Traders said the currency could still go down by 10 to 15 centavos today although profit-taking could keep the peso at the 51-to-$1 level. Yesterday, the peso gave up 38 centavos from last Friday's closing of 51.59 to $1.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the peso's weakness was essentially regional in nature even as he admitted that problems on the local peace-and-order situation were not helping the peso.

"The bad news of crimes and kidnapping by the Abu Sayyaf is aggravating the situation, which we hope would be resolved soon," the central bank chief said in a phone interview.

A trader from a foreign bank pointed out that it was heavy corporate buying that put much pressure on the peso yesterday. As soon as it opened at P51.75 to $1, there was a scramble for dollars at a time when selling was not as aggressive.

Before trading closed, a multinational firm was forced to buy $10 million at P52.05 to $1.

"There is not much liquidity in the Philippine Dealing System as people are reluctant to sell their dollars thinking that it would go up some more. At the same time, some companies are forced to buy to settle their month-end (obligations), and in some cases the end-semester obligations," another trader from a local bank said.

A trader from another bank explained that demand for dollars had been increasing in the local market as companies started preparing for their inventory for the second half of the year.

As demand rose, the trader said, the public held on to their dollars, expecting a continued peso weakness in the coming days given the unresolved hostage crisis in Mindanao.

Of the regional currencies, only the Japanese yen registered a decline while the Thai baht slightly improved. The Indonesian rupiah was stable.

Volume of trading rose to $141 million from $122.4 million last Friday. Buenaventura noted that the Bangko Sentral was not in the market and traders agreed there was no central bank intervention yesterday.

"The hostage crisis is not helping the peso because again it creates uncertainties similar to last year," said a trader from a foreign bank. Buenaventura agreed the country was again paying a political premium on the dollar.

The last time the peso breached the 51-to-$1 level was in late April to early May when the arrest of former. President Estrada led to mass protests in Edsa that culminated in a violent dispersal in Malacañang last May 1.

During that time, the peso slid to as low as 51.75 to $1.

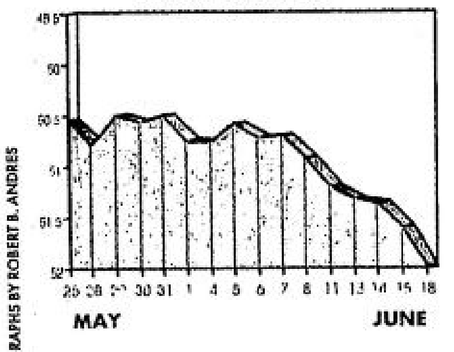
Buenaventura, however, believed the peso could still recover to 48 to $1 toward the end of the year. This would allow the local currency to post an average better than P50 to $1.

He said improved export earnings and dollar remittances toward Christmas would boost the peso by the fourth quarter.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P 51.975 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 18, 2001

¥ 123.42 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 123.42 as of 5 p.m., June 18, 2001

GOLD:$271.230/271.80

per ounce Hong Kong, June 18, 2001

STOCK MARKET

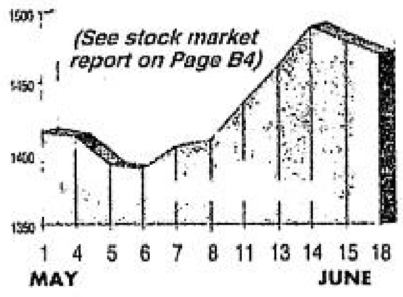
Stocks end lower

STOCKS closed lower yesterday as profit-takers moved into the market after a six-day run-up, traders said.

"It was just a case of correcting, of pulling back after the run-up," Regina Capital

STOCKS/ B4

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

HK group buys ICTSI subsidiary for $400M

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

HONG Kong-based conglomerate Hutchison Whampoa has acquired ICTSI International Holdings Corp. (IIHC), the international arm of local port operator International Container Terminal Services Inc., for $400 million (P20.4 billion).

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, ICTSI said the sale to Hutchison International Holdings Ltd. of its stake in IIHC as well as those held by other minority shareholders was completed last Friday.

The deal also included ICTSI's Mexican cruise port Ensenada Cruiseport Village S.A. but not the newly awarded port in Suape, Brazil.

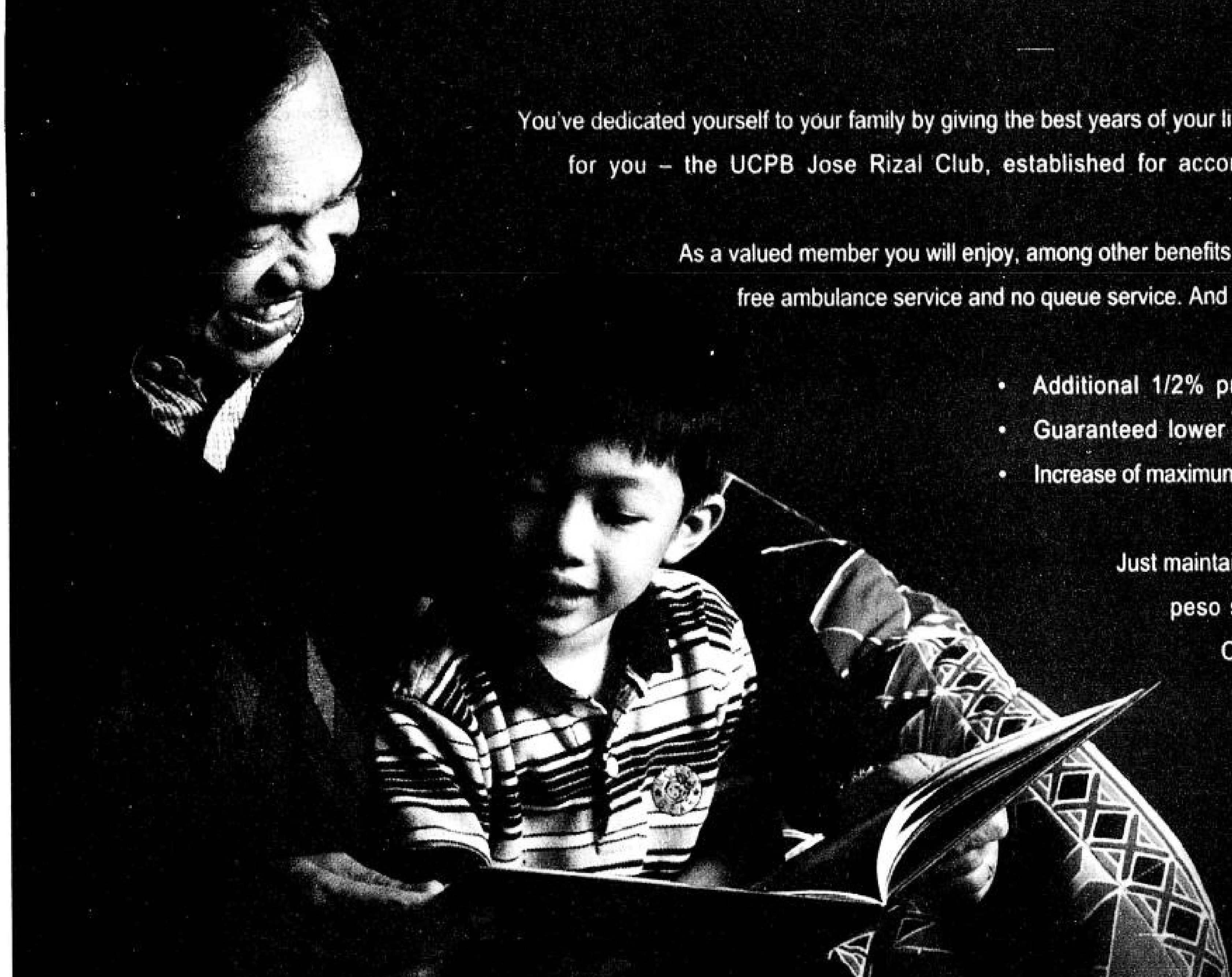
IIHC operates eight container terminals in six countries—Argentina, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Tanzania and Thailand.

The other minority shareholders in IIHC included Capital International Global Emerging Markets Private Equity Fund LP, JP Morgan Capital LP and Sixty Wall Street Fund LP.

"ICTSI will use the proceeds of the transaction to retire its dollar convertible notes and to pursue port projects in the Philippines and abroad," the disclosure said.

Some $12 million in ICTSI convertible bonds issued in 1994 are due this September while another $130 million issued in 1997 are redeemable in March 2002 with a premium of

HK/ B4



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—Calvin Coolidge (former U.S. President)

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Svenson INTERNATIONAL
YOUR CHOICE NOT TO BE BALD

Telecom giants eye research centers in RP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

EUROPEAN cellular phone makers Nokia of Finland, Ericsson of Sweden and Siemens of Germany have expressed keen interest in setting up research and development (R&D) centers in the country.

Officials of Nokia, Ericsson and Siemens sent their feelers to the Philippine IT mission led by Board of Investments managing head and now Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. in late May this year. The IT mission went to Stockholm, Helsinki, Rotterdam, London, Berlin, Munich and Zurich from May 19 to 31 this year.

Perez said the European cellular phone makers had taken a strong interest in the country because of the Filipinos' broad acceptance of short messaging system or text messages in the country.

"We are considered as the text capital of the world as Filipinos send more text messages than all of Europe combined. This fact has made a big impression on them," Perez said. Filipinos send more than 160 million text messages a day.

Nokia currently has 15 R&D centers in 10 countries; Ericsson has 50 R&D centers; and Siemens has 190 R&D centers worldwide.

During the trip, Perez noted that there was a need to market the Philippines more aggressively in the world market in order to let foreign investors get more details on investment opportunities in the country.

Aside from mobile phone technology development, Perez said investors from Finland, Sweden, Switzerland and Germany have expressed keen interest in software development and automotive parts manufacturing

The IT mission highlighted the Filipino IT professionals' proficiency in the English language and all computer hardware as well as the low cost of tapping the Philippines for outsourcing their IT requirements.

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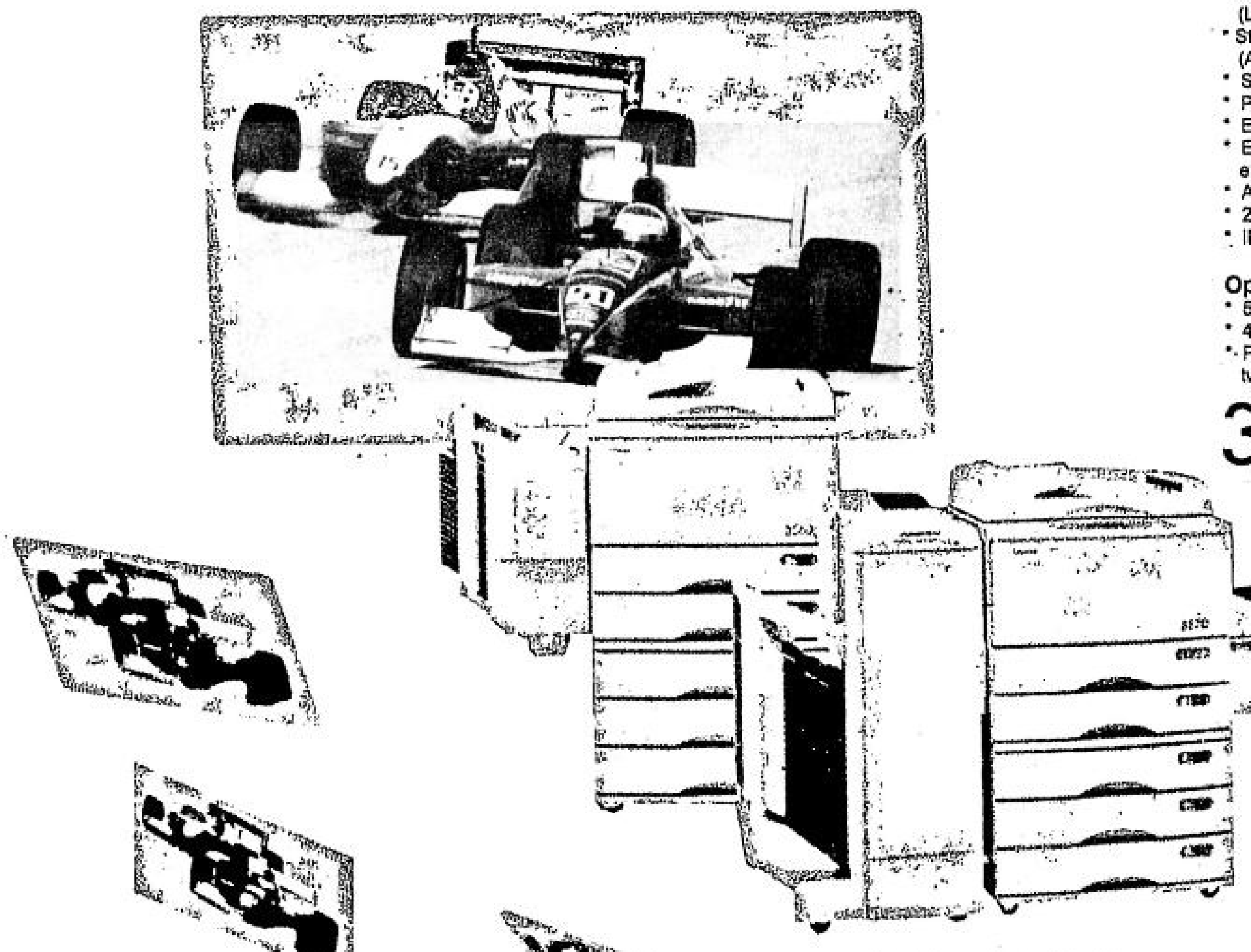

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91-day T-bill rate continues to fall

By Clarissa S. Batino

A MORE cautious market yesterday pushed yields of the 182- and 364-day treasury bills higher although the rate of the benchmark 91-day instrument still managed to go down by 0.076 percentage point to 8.653 percent.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the market feared that inflation might not go down as expected especially as the peso continued to fluctuate, prompting banks to bid up on the longer tenor instruments.

Yields of the six-month and one-year papers rose by 8 basis points and 14.2 points to 9.78 percent and 10.965 percent.

"The market is already asking for a premium on long-dated assets. They also think that a deteriorating value of the currency could be compensated by higher interest rates," Edeza said.

Edeza said he was hopeful that an expected quarter-point cut in US interest rates would be matched by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas by the end of the month.

He said a Bangko Sentral reduction would allow treasury bill rates to go down by another 10 to 15 basis points.

By next month, Edeza said the government's borrowing rate would trade flat. "The market expects the Fed cut this month to be the last and as a result, I think trading would be flat and boring in the ensuing months."

The national treasurer has ruled out the possibility that the 91-day treasury bill rate would go back to double-digit levels this year although he admitted that the yields could fluctuate especially if inflation rises.

A higher inflation discourages local monetary authorities from bringing down interest rates because lower rates only tend to increase money supply in the system and further fuel inflation.

Treasury bill rates track the movement of the central bank's overnight rates while the 91-day benchmark is used by banks in pricing their loans.

The government borrows P4 billion from the private sector weekly through the auction of treasury bills.

But despite the continued decline in the government's borrowing rate, banks still showed no signs of improved lending activity.

"Banks are still not lending because we are still grappling with a confidence problem. So banks continue to park their money with the government, which offers a stable and better-yielding rates," Edeza said.

The weak first-quarter growth of the economy also confirmed the market's belief that the best outlet for funds at this point remained the government's securities, he added. "Without any alternative for a market awash with funds, lending to the government is the soundest bet at this stage."

ADB says 3% growth for RP possible

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ASIAN Development Bank yesterday said the Philippines could still post a 3-percent growth in gross domestic product this year.

The bank reaffirmed its outlook on the country despite the lower GDP growth recorded in the first quarter and the continuing contraction in the country's exports, which had already prompted the government to scale down its growth target this year.

From an original GDP growth range target of 3.8 to 4.3 percent for this year, the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee recently lowered its projection to 3.3 to 3.8 percent.

GDP refers to the total amount of goods and services produced by the economy in a given year.

ADB country director for the Philippines Gunther Hecker said the bank had no need to change its outlook on the Philippines because it had taken into account from the very start the downturn in the United States and Japan, the country's biggest market for exports.

Hecker said the contraction in exports, a major growth driver, did not come as a surprise. He noted that the country could not do anything to address this over the short term.

"To improve the situation takes time, but now, the problem with the US is there but definitely it's a cycle. But in the future you'll have to be more diversified so that you are not dependent on somebody else's economy," Hecker said.

Hecker also noted that the Abu Sayyaf problem in Mindanao, despite some adverse effect on tourism in the country, was not a serious threat to the economy. The global downturn, he stressed, was what would really temper growth prospects this year.

"It (growth) is also dependent on the stability of the government, which looks, in our view, very, very promising. There's a very forceful leadership as you have seen in pushing the power bill into the system. This is the leadership that has handled things very admirably. So from that angle, things are looking up well," Hecker said.

Hecker reaffirmed an earlier report that said that economic prospects for the country would be better next year. The ADB has projected that GDP would rise to more than 4 percent in 2002.

Asked about the possible economic growth drivers for next year, Gunther said: "Obviously, it will be the manufacturing sector and possibly there will be more foreign investment in this sector. Hopefully, the information technology sector will recover although there's a time lag, so that will be a little bit of a problem. The Philippines is not a good performer in agriculture, so there's a lot of untapped potential in this sector."

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CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	375,000
CANYON WOODS	-	Please call
CAPITOL HILLS	130,000	-
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	210,000	215,000
CLUB FILIPINO	300,000	320,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B/C**	425,000	450,000*/700,000 **
EASTRIDGE A	-	200,000
EVERCREST A/B*	130,000 *	150,000/170,000 *
FONTANA D/C*/B**	88,000/120,000 *	90,000/150,000*/260,000 **
FOREST HILLS A/B/C**	-	200,000/350,000*/450,000 **
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	-	550,000
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	395,000/450,000 *	400,000/455,000 *
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,600,000	3,800,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	850,000/975,000 *
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	175,000/180,000 *
MIMOSA IND/CORP*	200,000/350,000 *	240,000/550,000 *
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ORCHARD A/B/C**	280,000/600,000 **	300,000/425,000 *
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	85,000	90,000
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	150,000	Please call *
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	225,000	230,000
RIVIERA A/B*	-	280,000/400,000 *
ROCKWELL CLUB	600,000	650,000
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SHERWOOD HILLS A/B/C**	250,000	275,000/350,000*/450,000 **
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP*	300,000/400,000 *	Please call
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	320,000	350,000/550,000 *
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC/GOLF*	-	450,000/1,000,000 *
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	850,000
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3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	820,000	
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"		100,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	400,000	350,000
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	950,000	850,000
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	150,000	130,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	450,000	400,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	280,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	250,000	220,000
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	425,000	
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"		100,000
14. FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	Pls Call	Pls. Call
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	230,000
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	550,000	
17. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600,000	
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	400,000	
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	450,000	
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	15,500,000	
21. MANILA POLO CLUB	3,900,000	3,500,000
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	850,000	
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	950,000	
24. MANILA YACHT CLUB	650,000	
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	180,000	
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	200,000	
27. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	400,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	280,000	200,000
29. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	400,000	
30. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600,000	550,000
31. PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB "B"	200,000	140,000
32. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	240,000	
33. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	
34. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600,000	500,000
35. ROYAL NORTHWOODS	Pls Call	Pls. Call
36. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	2,100,000	
37. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	500,000	
38. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	1,000,000	
39. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	850,000	
40. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	185,000	175,000
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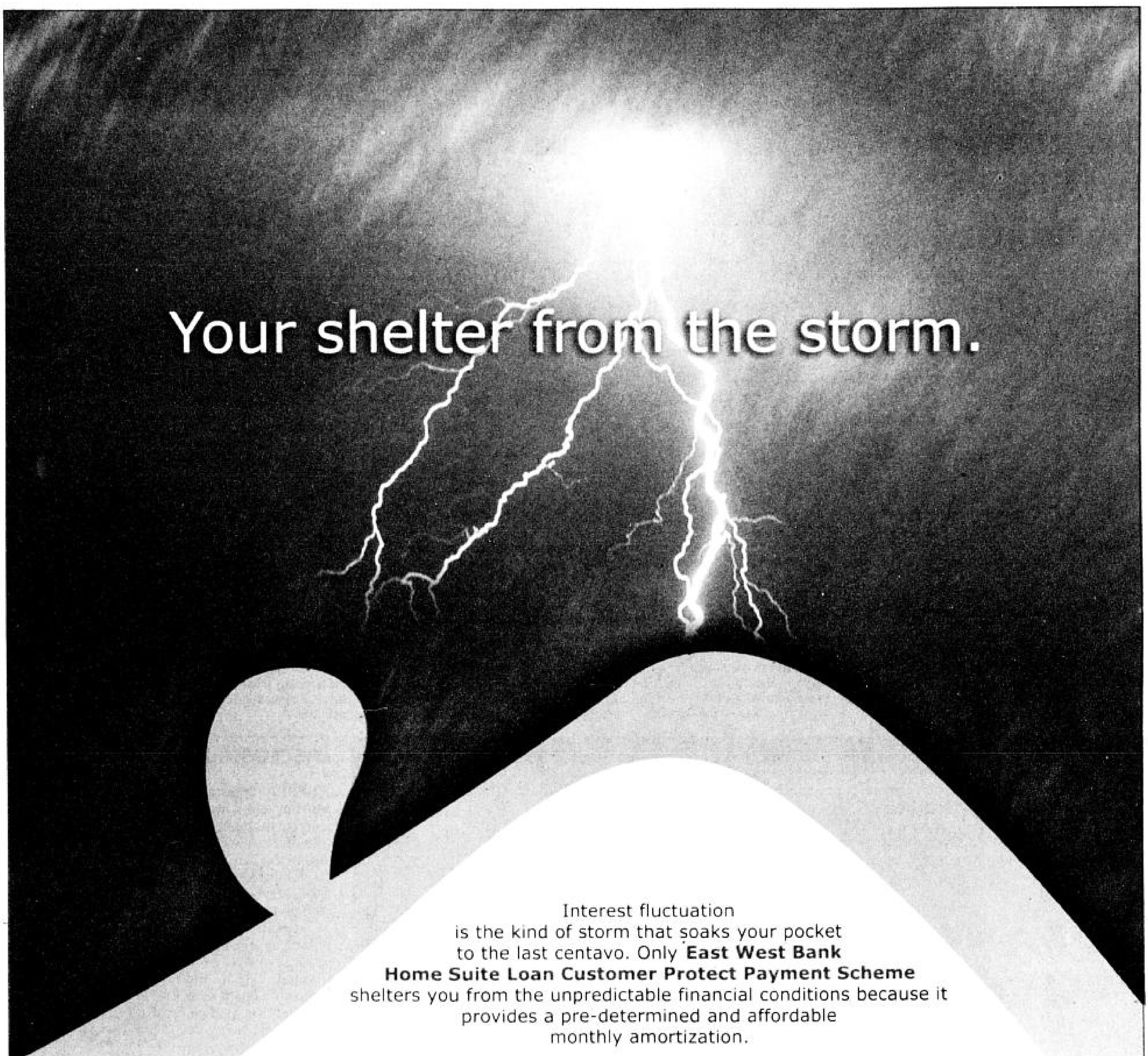

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Value seen in blue chips

LOCAL stocks, battered all year by political turmoil and a slowing economy, may have fallen close to bottom and there is some value to be found among the country's healthier blue-chips, economic analysts said.

GK Goh Research (Philippines) said that if the earnings momentum reached by some corporations in the first quarter could be maintained for the rest of the year, the Philippine market would be trading at a more favorable price-earnings growth ratio than many of its regional peers.

In its June country outlook, GK Goh said that if the first quarter earnings pattern of key corporations would extend through the rest of the year, the market would be trading at a price to earnings growth ratio of 0.61 times. This represents a sizeable discount to Malaysia's 0.78 times, Singapore's 1.48 times and Hong Kong's 2.80 times.

ING Barings Securities Philippines said that while external risks continued to overhang the market, earnings growth would be far more robust than last year's and a re-rating of the main index up to 1,700 points was likely. The index closed the week at 1,479.30 points.

"There is value in this market in terms of price to book (ratios) for some sectors or stocks but there is not the making of a bull market yet," All Asia Asset Management portfolio manager Albert Chua added.

He highlighted the food and beverage sector, in particular conglomerate San Miguel Corp., and property companies Ayala Land Inc. and SM Prime Holdings as among those offering value on a price to book (net asset value) basis because of their large cash piles.

Some other fund managers are also taking a second look at Manila, encouraged by the outcome of the May 14 elections and the passage of a key legislation that will open up the state-controlled power generating sector to foreign investment.

However, no one is saying the country or its markets are out of the woods just yet.

The mountainous budget deficit remains a significant deterrent to foreign investment as does the ongoing law and order problem, with hostage-taking Abu Sayyaf bandits continuing to thumb their noses at the government. GDP growth in the first quarter was a measly 2.5 percent year-on-year.

Compounding internal headaches is the switch to a free float system on Morgan Stanley's Capital International Index which effectively cuts the country's previous wafer-thin weighting of 0.05 percent to 0.02.

Many international fund managers use the MSCI indices to determine the level of their country holdings.

Nevertheless, the picture looks slightly brighter now than it did a month ago, ING Investment Management chief investment officer Paul Garcia said.

"We are cautiously optimistic at this point because of the passage of the power bill and the outcome of the May 14 elections which are favorable to the Macapagal administration," he said.

He said ING Investment was evaluating a possible change in its current underweight position on local stocks to a "benchmark or neutral level" in light of recent developments.

The firm uses a benchmark based on client requirements of around 10 percent of its portfolios in Philippine stocks.

GK Goh also pointed to Ayala Land and SM Prime Holdings as good buys at current prices.

On Friday, Ayala Land stock closed at P5.50, a 36.5-percent discount to its net asset value per share (NAV) of P8.67, which the brokerage said was close to the top of its historical discount range.

SM Prime, meanwhile, ended at 6.70, a 1.5-percent premium to its NAV of P6.60 instead of its "usual 10-15 percent" premium, GK Goh said.

Sun Life of Canada (Philippines) Inc. senior investment analyst Paolo Periquet said he was not "brave enough" to venture back into local equities yet though the slide in the market "may be somewhere close to bottom."

The passage of the power bill "shows the amount of political will Ms Macapagal has, as well as the ability to get things done."

The main 33-share composite index has now risen for six consecutive sessions, shrugging off the Abu Sayyaf woes and weakness on Wall Street and many regional markets.

On Friday, it broke above the 200-day moving average for the first time in over a month and is now down 1.02 percent for the year—a poorer performance than Taipei, Seoul, Bangkok and Jakarta but better than Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. *Reuters*

HK group buys ICTSI subsidiary

(From page B1)

$36.9 million.

As of the first quarter of the year, ICTSI's consolidated debt stood at P17.4 billion while its cash hoard amounted to P2.42 billion.

ATR Kim Eng Securities head of research Luz Lorenzo yesterday estimated that of the total equity value agreed upon, ICTSI would get $240 million for its 60-percent stake in IIHC.

"We estimate roughly ICTSI's cash level will increase to around P14.9 billion inclusive of the IIHC sale proceeds. Thus, ICTSI's gearing (net debt-to-equity ratio) should fall sharply to around 0.9 from 4.9 times after the sale," Lorenzo said.

Hutchison International Port is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Hutchison conglomerate. It holds and manages port and related services worldwide, operating a total of 136 berths in 19 ports together with a number of transportation-related service companies.

Under the agreement with Hutchison, ICTSI is barred from engaging in port projects in countries where IIHC operates within the next four years.

ICTSI and Hutchison had clashed over a controversial contract to operate and upgrade a container port in Subic Bay Freeport back in 1997, a battle which even reached the Supreme Court during the time of President Ramos.

Gov't steps in to settle S&R-Ever Gotesco feud

By GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.
AND ELENA TORRIJOS

THE MACAPAGAL administration is moving swiftly to settle a brewing dispute between S&R Price Membership and Ever Gotesco Resources Holdings Inc. on which group has the exclusive right to run Price Club warehouse shopping stores in the country.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Justice were closely working together to settle the issue amicably between the parties.

Roxas' statement came after S&R Price yesterday filed with the Court of Appeals a petition to overturn the temporary restraining order issued by the Las Piñas court Friday.

"We will get the store open soon. We are very confident that we have all the information we need to have this resolved as quickly as possible," Benjamin Woods, country manager of Pricesmart for the Philippines, said in an interview with the INQUIRER Saturday.

Lawyers from the United States arrived here Saturday to help Pricesmart in the legal battle.

"This is basically a conflict between two private parties. The government is fully aware of the situation and it is in discussion with the concerned parties to help resolve the dispute," Roxas said.

S&R Price Membership is the first foreign retailer to avail itself of the opportunities provided by the Retail Trade Liberalization Law, which allowed foreign investors to run wholly owned stores in the country for the first time in more than 50 years.

A potentially long legal battle could force S&R Price Membership's sprawling shopping complex at the Fort Bonifacio Global City on hold indefinitely, which the government hopes to avoid because it could further dampen interest in the retail sector.

The government has been talking about a long list of foreign retailers expressing interest in investing in the country's retail sector but it has so far come empty-handed in terms of actual investments poured into the country.

Except for S&R Price Membership, most foreign retailers have either wavered on their investment plans (Wal-Mart) or pulled out (Casino and Carrefour) of their respective deals.

Less than three weeks after its well-received store opening, S&R Price Membership Shopping was ordered by a local court to stop its operations following a complaint lodged by Ever-Gotesco which is claiming exclusive rights to operate these stores in the Philippines.

Ever-Gotesco, the retailing arm of businessman Jose Go, had signed an agreement to run warehouse stores called Pricesmart but the firm's financial troubles forced it to shelve the plan.

The S&R Price Membership club is the sixth warehouse of San Diego, California-based Pricesmart Inc. in Asia and the first in the Philippines. Pricesmart was founded 25 years ago by American entrepreneurs Sol Price and his son Robert. The company intends to open up to 10 warehouses in the country worth $7.5 million to $10 million per warehouse.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, June 18, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	76	77	76	76.5	363,600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	23,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	218	218	217	217	202,700
Philippine National Bank	48	48	47.5	47.5	3,200
Security Bank Corp.	21.5	21.5	21.5	21.5	200
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26	26	26	11,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	245,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1350	1350	1350	1350	2,890
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1120	1120	1100	1100	1,920
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	39.5	40	39.5	40	4,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.52	0.53	5,660,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.042	0.043	0.042	0.043	4,500,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.49	600,000
Piltel	0.69	0.69	0.65	0.65	210,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.32	130,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	725	730	725	725	38,830
Ivantage Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.91	340,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.042	0.042	0.04	0.04	140,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	40.5	40.5	40	40	43,100
Manila Electric Co. B	57	57.5	56	56.5	209,700
Petron Corp.	2.4	2.42	2.24	2.26	4,336,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	150,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	177,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.25	3.4	3	3.1	22,179,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	2,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	370,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	13,230,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	987,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.1	746,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	86,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26.5	27	26.5	27	84,300
Pancake House Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	10,000
RFM Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.3	1.3	960,000
San Miguel Corp. A	43	43	43	43	85,800
San Miguel Corp. B	48	48.5	48	48	491,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	300,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.76	0.77	0.76	0.76	200,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	10,000
Ayala Corp.	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.2	743,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.54	1.54	1.52	1.52	609,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.5	12	11.25	11.25	3,200
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.91	0.91	1,280,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.54	24,650,000
APC Group Inc.	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.2	1,550,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.006	11,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.1	2.12	2.1	2.12	19,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.9	1.94	1.8	1.8	15,798,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	830,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,580,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	2,740,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	27.5	27.5	26.5	26.5	255,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	170,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	180,000
Ionics Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	23,900
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	44,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.018	0.021	0.018	0.021	3,700,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.02	0.021	0.019	0.02	9,500,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.8	0.84	0.8	0.8	3,450,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.51	0.52	0.51	0.51	950,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	50,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.3	0.3	4,030,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	320,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	5	5.2	5	5.2	6,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	280,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	10,000
Music Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.3	112,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.62	0.66	0.62	0.66	140,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	60,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.5	15.75	22,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.59	0.61	0.59	0.59	3,070,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.6	0.63	0.57	0.57	2,990,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	320,000
Manila Jockey Club	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	25,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.28	880,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	40	40	40	40	3,200
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	1,500
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	20,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.033	0.034	0.031	0.032	25,800,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	3,927,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	110,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	6,230,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.39	0.35	0.36	39,910,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.34	2.34	2.24	2.24	3,795,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	210,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.1	0.12	0.1	0.11	5,700,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.8	453,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.085	0.09	0.085	0.085	3,800,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	17,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	40,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.045	0.055	0.044	0.047	198,800,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	400,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.19	160,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	320,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	32,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	30,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.018	0.02	0.017	0.018	12,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.31	0.25	0.31	4,510,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.33	0.27	0.33	6,520,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.024	3,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0048	0.0055	0.0048	0.0055	52,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	31,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	50,000
Pacifica	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	29,700,000

Stocks . . . (From page B1)

Development vice president Alan Araullo said, adding he expected the profit-taking to continue for another two days as the market went through a brief consolidation phase.

"It's pretty much as expected. We hit resistance of around 1,480 points (on the main index) last week and it (yesterday's fall) probably signals the beginning of a long stretch of bear trading going into the third quarter," Mutual Fund Management Co. of the Philippines president Efren Cruz said.

Equity markets around the world are traditionally slow in the third quarter with many United States-based investors absent for summer holidays.

Manila's main composite index finished down 8.38 points, or 0.57 percent, at 1,470.92 points. Turnover ended at P392.93 million, sharply lower than last Friday's P749.26 million. *Reuters*

DISCLOSURES

KEPPEL Philippines Marine said it would increase the number of its directors from seven to nine. Also, the company declared a 3-centavo-per-share cash dividend in favor of stockholders of record as of July 6, payable on Aug. 6. Elected to the company's board were Charles Foo Chee Lee, Toh Ko Lin, Henry Sy Sr., Ramon Abejuela, Teo Soon Hoe, Cesar Tapia and Hoe Eng Hock.

* * *

ALASKA Milk Corp. bought 1 million of its shares at P2.10 per share for the company's buy back program.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.** were Ramon Felipe Jr., Jose Sanchez, Teofilo Asuncion Jr., Val Suarez, Mariano Sarmiento II, Antonio Meer, Raul Alvarez, Armando Domingo and Francisco Dizon.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Zipporah Realty Holdings Inc.** were Exequiel Robles, Santiago Cua, Mariza Santos-Tan, Henry Cua Loping, Alfonso Reyno Jr., Rolando Castro, Benjamin Santos, Brigido Dulay and Alejandro Saulog Jr.

* * *

MARSTEEL Consolidated Inc. denied having any information that could explain the 50-percent increase in its share price from P 0.012 to P 0.018.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

June 18, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.160093	1.000000	51.4790
Japan	Yen	0.009437	0.008135	0.4188
United Kingdom	Pound	1.629930	1.405000	72.3280
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.148921	0.128370	6.6084
Switzerland	Franc	0.652765	0.562683	28.9664
Canada	Dollar	0.761216	0.656168	33.7789
Singapore	Dollar	0.638466	0.550358	28.3319
Australia	Dollar	0.611606	0.527204	27.1399
Bahrain	Dinar	3.077333	2.652661	136.5563
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.309358	0.266667	13.7278
Brunei	Dollar	0.636713	0.548847	28.2541
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000089	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.025626	0.022090	1.1372
UAE	Dirham	0.315929	0.272331	14.0193
Korea	Won	0.000899	0.000775	0.0399
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.862000	44.3749
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.440734	22.6885
France	Franc	0.152450	0.131411	6.7649
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.391159	20.1365
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.062644	3.2249
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021368	1.1000
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000445	0.0229
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.144978	7.4633
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.0043	0.2214
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005181	0.2667
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021368	1.1000
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.094614	56.3445

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POWER REFORM ACT

New law to end monopoly; well, not really

By Ronnel W. Domingo

(*Last of two parts*)

IN the business of generating and distributing electricity, there are monopolies and there are monopolies. The most obvious is the National Power Corp. itself, which controls both the generation and transmission sectors of the industry. Of course, the main objective of restructuring the electric industry is to abolish Napocor's monopoly, which ironically is a major factor behind its ballooning losses.

Former Energy Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said with about $6.7 billion in debts, Napocor had become an inefficient producer of power.

While Napocor could no longer build new capacities, other investors would not do so since the present structure of the industry favored only Napocor. Yet, now that the dying firm is on its way to privatization, will government monopoly in the industry really end?

SPECIAL REPORT

Not really. Napocor's transmission lines will remain in government hands under the National Transmission Co. This cannot be helped because having two sets of transmission lines in the same area will be uneconomical. That is why the transmission sector is referred to as a "natural monopoly."

This is also true for another monopoly in the industry—the distribution sector. All existing distribution utilities will remain monopolized because, like motorways, it will be more costly for consumers to pay for two sets of poles and wires. Under restructuring, competition in the distribution sector will only apply to the sale of electricity. The distribution sector currently lumps the wires and retail businesses, which the newly approved Electric Industry Restructuring Act aims to separate.

For consumer advocates like the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms, the power reform law is an opportunity to challenge the reign of monopolies. Nasecore's base are members of rural electric cooperatives who, among other things, have taken on the task of taming—if not slaying—the dragons of monopoly.

Nasecore is opposing the Manila Electric Co.'s petition for a 30-centavo-per-kilowatt-hour rate increase, which has been pending with the Energy Regulatory Board for more than a year now.

Open access

"Open access would let in new players in the retail market," Nasecore president Pete Ilagan pointed out.

There will still be a single system of distribution lines, but there will be several retailers using the same lines.

Ilagan said the consumers' main weapon was the setting up of "aggregators", or a "person or entity engaged in consolidating electric power demand of end-users in the contestable market for the purpose of purchasing and reselling electricity on a group basis."

"Right now, consumers can do nothing but feel angry with all their complaints against Meralco," Ilagan said.

He said in an open market, one would have the option to shift to another electricity provider, which was the aggregator.

"I believe it would be best if the aggregators were also a consumers cooperative. This would ensure that power rates would be low because it would be nonprofit," he said.

The bill provides that the separation of the wires and retail businesses take effect within three years from the onset of restructuring. After that, the market will be opened to aggregators who will be allowed to supply electricity to end-users with a monthly average peak demand of at least a megawatt. This threshold will later go down to 750 kilowatts and then to the household demand level.

"As aggregators, consumers can now, for instance, approach occupants of buildings in Makati. Each one consumes more than a megawatt of electricity," Ilagan said.

He explained he was able to study this during a visit to New York, where a consumers cooperative competed with the distribution utility.

"There was a certain building that spent $160,000 a month. When it switched to the cooperative, its bill fell to less than $100,000," Ilagan said.

He added that for residential end-users, it would be easier to aggregate first so that a mother meter could be put up.

As restructuring progresses and the people get more educated about it, the threshold will go down to the household level.

Ilagan also foresees a time when a consumer can use a prepaid card to buy electricity.

"You can key in the value of the card and your house will get electricity until it is used up, just like a cellular phone," he said.

Ilagan said this was a scenario of full deregulation, which could be achieved depending on the people's readiness.

Ilagan said, however, that his group would start challenging monopolies in the provinces because it would be easier to set up aggregators there.

After the three years of preparation, open access will be implemented in the franchise areas of distribution utilities.

Electric cooperatives

In the rural areas, electric cooperatives will have two extra years of grace period to ready themselves for competition.

Despite this, the 119-member Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association believes power rates will not go down.

Philreca president Rosalino Culalic said the removal of cross-subsidies would raise power rates in their areas.

At present, consumers from Luzon pay an additional charge to lower costs in the Visayas and Mindanao. Industrial and commercial consumers also pay extra to lower expenses for residential consumers.

"It could be better if the removal of cross-subsidies would be done gradually," Culalic said.

He said another reason would be the passing on of stranded costs and costs of energizing non-viable areas to consumers.

The law provides for the imposition of a universal charge for such purposes within a year of its enactment.

Culalic also said the condonation of their debts still depended on a program that the President had to approve.

"What if the President does not approve it? We would still bear the brunt of P19 billion in debts to the National Electrification Authority," he said.

Culalic said the government mandated the cooperatives to service remote areas even if these were not viable. He said in light of this, the government should have the graciousness to grant the cooperatives incentives, like tax exemptions and money to upgrade their distribution systems.

"How can we make ourselves competitive when the market is open?" he asked.

Culalic also expressed reservations on the mandatory 30-centavo-per-kilowatt-hour rate reduction, saying it was meant to mitigate the removal of cross-subsidies.

Lag time

Camacho believes the rate reduction is a "confidence-building measure" for the process of restructuring.

The former energy secretary said while power reforms came with the promise of lowered electricity rates, it should be clear that this was true when "everything else was equal."

"When you say 'power rates are going to go down,' there are things that you don't anticipate," he said.

"But when the price of your raw materials—like fuel oil and coal—go up, power rates cannot remain as it were," he stressed.

"This has to be explained to the public because we do not want to send wrong messages like when the oil industry was deregulated," he said.

He said the most important thing about restructuring was that the public would be able to see different prices.

"Aside from that, there is the one time benefit of the National Power Corp.'s privatization," he added.

He explained that through the transfer of ownership, Napocor could lower its financial costs and its debt leverage.

He added that consumers would feel the benefits of restructuring as the industry continually tried to improve cost components.

He said power rates had better chances of lowering "if we could have lower operating expenses, lower foreign exchange losses and less costs for the independent power producers."

Camacho said like in the oil industry, "we still could not see the benefit of deregulation because there were still few players."

"Now that the new power bill has been ratified, the real work is just starting. No law is perfect, but prudent implementation can ensure that it is effective," he said.

Gov't hires 7 banks to handle road show

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has hired seven foreign investment banks to handle the Macapagal administration's "no-deal" road show set for either next month or in September.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza Jr. said the government hired Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, JP Morgan Chase & Co., Credit Suisse First Boston, Deutsche Bank AG, HSBC Corp., ING Groep NV, and Nomura Securities Co. Ltd. for its road show.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the road show would largely be an investment promotion tour across the United States, Europe and Asia.

The Macapagal administration would not enter into any deal to raise cash during the road show, but would consider offers with "very promising offers" rates, Camacho, Deutsche Bank's former Philippine manager, said.

"I think we are pretty much set for this year and any further borrowings will be for next year," he said.

Edeza said the seven investment banks would handle the road show for free. "We will not pay them. It would just be goodwill on their part," he said.

Three of the participating banks have already worked out loan deals worth about $550 million for the Macapagal administration.

Credit Suisse has worked out a $200-million, three-year private placement. JP Morgan will broker a $100-million loan while HSBC is set to close a similar deal worth $250 million next month.

The Macapagal administration plans to use loans these loans to cover its budget deficit next year.

The government plans to borrow from $1 billion to $1.5 billion abroad next year, nearly double this year's $740 million, on expectations of a stronger economy.

SEC approves Banco de Oro, Dao merger

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the merger of Banco de Oro Universal Bank and Dao Heng Bank Philippines.

Banco de Oro chair Nestor Tan said the merger would bring Banco de Oro's paid-up capital to P12 billion.

An initial public offering set by end-September would raise it further to P14 billion, he said.

Banco de Oro chair Teresita Sy Coson said earlier the bank might offer as much as 20 percent of its total stake to the public through an IPO.

"We're required to go into (an IPO to sell) 10 percent, but we may go into 20 percent of the total value (of Banco de Oro)," Coson said in an interview.

Under the rules of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Banco de Oro is required to list at least 10 percent of its shares to the public within three years after it gets its universal banking license.

The bank was supposed to have gone public over two years ago.

It was able to get the central bank to extend its deadline several times since then.

Banco de Oro is now in the process of converting P3.5 billion in preferred shares into common shares.

The bank is also entering into a share-swap agreement that will allow it to own its Ortigas-based headquarters and an adjacent property.

A Cayman Islands-registered mutual fund, Cambridge Pacific Fund, meanwhile, is investing at least P2 billion into Banco de Oro.

Banco de Oro, which earlier filed a prospectus for its IPO offering, has tapped BPI Capital as its lead underwriter.

The bank plans to file an updated prospectus with regulatory agencies to reflect the entry of Cambridge Pacific, the merger with Dao Heng Bank, the share-swap and the conversion of preferred shares into common shares.

Before IPO and after the other recapitalization transactions, Banco de Oro would have around 700 million common shares.

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Professor Ma. Nieves R. Confesor is the Program Director of the Negotiations Course. Most of her experiences locally and internationally have proven successfully her negotiations expertise. She was Presidential Adviser on Human Resource Development and International Labor Affairs to former President Fidel V. Ramos. She was the Philippine Secretary for Labor and Employment, and served in various positions in the Department of Labor and Employment since 1976. Professor Confesor has devoted many years of work in the management of overseas programs for migrant workers, the shaping of bilateral and multilateral agreements, regional relations and participation in the International Labor Organization (ILO). She also holds the distinction of being the first Filipino and Asian woman to serve as Chairperson of the ILO Governing Body from 1994 to 1995. Professor Confesor holds a Masters in Public Policy and Administration from Harvard University and an MBA degree from the Ateneo de Manila University.

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L-BAHAY 8383742/5447599

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

•LIPAT•731-6833

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

MANDALUYONG

Along Edsa Infront of SM 2272m² 55T/m²neg6811766

PROVINCIAL

•SUBIC 9 has.+ good 4 subd 0919-2300217

HOUSE & LOT

Las Pinas/Bacoor 3BRS DP 6mo.8740486/87

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

Semi Furnished 3BR 2TB BF Resort Vill., Las Pinas Alma 8733324

MAKATI

Magallanes H&L LA367 2Sty 4BR 13M • 643-5313

MANDALUYONG

Mand. H&L 2Stry 300m² Call 534-6610 Jojo

MARIKINA

Grnind bnew 3br 2M 9487112

PARANAQUE

Multi National H&L V/L 180-up • 643-5313

Tahanan Vill 300sqm 3BR 3TB MR 4CG P5M 928-2497

Tahanan Vill 300sqm P3.5M (Neg) 928-2497

PASIG

Bo Capitolyo 330m² P7M Quiet location • 671-4421

Bo Kapitolyo LA986m² Bung w/Jap Hse-Garden 6435313

Bo. Kapitolyo Pasig LA-375m² • Call 746-7525

Greenwoods Hse & Lot Call 534-6610 Jojo

Lexington Subd Terms/Cash H&L T/hses 4M up 6435313

Parcwood Pasig 753-2532 5br + Mr 0919-5889231 Rush

Pasig Greenpark Bungalow 658-2115 to 16

VV2 H&L LA743 FA351 4BR Garden-Nice • 643-5313

QUEZON CITY

Baler QC L3000 w/Hse Rollin New Mla L625 V Lot New Mla L280 2Stry Call 928-1469

GOODWILL HMES I 246 m² 3 BR T&B 4.5 M (neg) RAMIL #09178931480/9353921

Greenmdows 4BR Den 35M Facing West Call 412-1825

LOYOLA GRAND VILLA LA401m² FA460m² 4BR 6TB Tel 4352346 0917-7062620

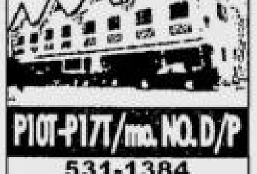
Mayon St. SMH-QC A-960m² Lot & Improv. 534-6610 / 818-8569 Jojo

OTHER AREAS

CanyonWoods Btngas 7.5M ownrlvng neg0917-8143792

NoDP,2650/mo 09195898014

GUEVENTHOMES
PANAPAAN I, BACOOR
just a stroll away from SM Mall



P10T-P17T/mo. NO D/P
531-1384
531-0390/95
(0915) 704-3888
www.guevent.com
1-800-10-RSG HOME

RIZAL

Beverly Hills Subd. Antipolo LA 650m² Hse, Area 500m² P12M 650-3393

Cuesta Verde Exec. Vill. Antipolo LA 120m² P240T Call 650-3393

Fairmont LA1,090sqm FA400 12M Neg 6503393

Ferretville Antipolo Bungalow 3BR • 658-2115 to 16

Gloria Heights Subd. Antipolo LA 218m² Hse-Area 85m² P1.8M Call 650-3393

Milagros Subd 3DR Apt LA299 Bldg80 sqm 6503393

Mtalban 5200/mo 6495616

Valley View Exec. Cainta ovrlking MMla 658-2115/16

Valley View Exec Cainta Thse/Sgle det 658-2115/16

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

RIZAL

VVExec Vil nr Sta. Lucia East LA200 2sty 3BR 2TB Maids den c'port terrace Rush P3.5M P1.5DP Bal. Ass Bank Loan Jimy Cell# 0917-4988499

PROVINCIAL

Baguio Mansion Hse 4BR 2Md's Qtr 3TB 658-2115/16

LOT

QUEZON CITY

250sqm N.Domingo P5.5M Tel 697-3191 Pet / Glo

RIZAL

Antipolo City Proper Coml 1756m² v.nice 658-2115/16

Antipolo V/L 5300m² Cheap w/Fruit Trees • 643-5313

Mla. East Road Taytay 667m² -1000m² 6582115/16

MLA-East Rd 5000/8000m² 4 ind'l w/ in Pililla/ Baras, Rizal@ only P700/m² or 200m²up hmelots @1500m² 30%DP bal 5yrs to pay to pay Jim Cell#09174988499

•SFDM QC 519 SQM 815-0298 • 0919-4037225

Valley View Royale Cainta 150m² 3 Adjng lots 6582115/16

Vista Verde Cainta 150m² 5adj lots lots 658-2115/16

V/L Beverly Hills Subd. 615m² Cheap! • 643-5313

SAN JUAN

Nr P.Guevarra 4 Com'l/Res Use 450sqm • 723-2391

PROVINCIAL

1,370Has @ P60/m² Loc. Mayantoc Sta. Ignacio & San Jose Tarlac Frontage. 3.84Kms Along d H-way 652-0227 • 942-6181

150Has @ P250/m² Neg. 900M Shoreline 652-0227 • 942-6181

1,700Has @ P200/m² Along D H-way other side along shoreline 652-0227 • 942-6181

Capas, Tarlac 200Has Expandable to 1,000Has @ P320/m² Frontage 1.8 Kms 652-0227 • 942-6181

Concepcion Tarlac 150Has @ P150/m² 652-0227 • 942-6181

Sta Rosa. 114Has @ P1.500/m² S. Super H-way 53 Has @P1.500/m² Along Barrio Road 652-0227 • 942-6181

SUBIC 96,828m² 4 subd. 047-9134120 Jhun

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

Salcedo Vil 1BR FF + PS P3.5M 911-7940

MANILA

11Units Condo Entire 3rd Flr Espana UST Good for Office/ Review Sch P8M Tel 697-3191 Pet/ Glo

ANTEL SEAVIEW TOWERS Along Roxas Blvd 226m² 5BR 3TB 3Parking Slot P70T/m² Call 681-1766

MANDALUYONG

No Down Payment Pre-Selling/Ready 30% D.P. Nr. Megamall / Shangri-La Call 419-5296 / 0919-3901710 Dulce

Pneer Hiland 1-3BR Sale/Rent Call 412-1825 • 0917-7914366

Various Condo/TownHse Call 5346610/8188569 Jojo

Various Wack-Wack Condo Lee Gardens 5346610 Jojo

PARANAQUE

BF PQ 3BR/TB MDS RM-TB 1car P3.5 911-7940

Nice TH BF Resort Vil Las Pinas 1.6M 911-7940

Town Hse Sherwoods Hts. P3M 534-6610 / 818-8569

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

PASIG

ALEXANDRA 260SQM 17M 412-1825 / 09177914366

Pasig Thses 2.5 up Terms 2Sty Nice- • 643-5313 Cash

Renaissance Condo 4 Rent 1br/2br Res. 643-5313

Renaissance FOR SALE 1br [illegible]r Res. 643-5313

Rush! Renaissance 2000 DBO 2br+2tb 09178143792

QUEZON CITY

MO. IGNACIA, SCT AREA 3BR 140m² nr timog 2420922

CUBAO Condo P1.3"EZ"term 9126976 9132224 4381161

Miranila Nr. Crame 3BR FA265 P6.7M neg 723-2391

Nice TH Grace Vil LA158 FA278M' P9M 911-7940

TSora 3BR+1md 2TB P2.5M 2cgrge DBO 0917-8143792

MEMORIAL LOT

Mla Meml Sucat 4504512

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Antipolo LA2.0Has near Masinag Mrket 658-2115/16

RESORT

BF Resort Vill Las Pinas 276m² @ P5500 874-9075

FACTORY/WHSE

Pasig = Warehouses 4Lease 1200 = 3600 • 643-5313

Warehouse A-1000m² Call 5346610/8188569 Jojo

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MANDALUYONG

1BR Couple, 1Child, Maid w/Garage P5.5T 532-4446

PASIG

Unit 4 Rent Pasig 531-7704

QUEZON CITY

80 B Pangasinan Near SM City Quezon City Contact Tel. 926-3934 DON Cell. 0917-9762184 Jimmy Cell. 0917-9789840 Aga

SAN JUAN

2BR San Juan 92513489

HOUSE

ALABANG

Big Lawn 3BR Mds Rm 4TB Splt Lvl 8265861

MAKATI

SANLO 3BR 5268048/49

PARANAQUE

BN HL Multinatl LA480m² FA400m² P15M 911-7940

Duplex LA183m² 3BR P3.8M 911-7940

PASIG

VVerde5 3BR P60T 723-2391

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

Fully Fur Condo 753-2533 Mkt/Ortigas 0919-5889231

QUEZON CITY

Townhouse 20T/mo. Matahimik St. Teacher's Vill. Q.C. 929-9072 or 76

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

CB RICHARD ELLIS
Managed B. New Res. Units
Essensa East Forbes
Fort Bonifacio, Global City
Luxury 3BR, 290sqm
Classica Tower
Salcedo Village, Makati
123BR 43-157sqm
18-85K UF/FF
Burgundy Westbay Tower
V. Cruz-Taft nr. Lasalle
123BR 14-37K
coml/ofc 42-90sqm
Oxford Suites
P. Burgos St. Makati
Std, 1 and 2 BR furnished
Other properties available:
752-2580, 848-7388,
759-4091, 0917-8381928,
0917-8112635
manila@cbrichardellis.com

FOR LEASE

1.0 to 4.0 Has along Valley Golf Road • 658-2115 to 16

600m² along Manila East Road • 658-2115 to 16

WANTED TO BUY

FURNITURE HOME APPLIANCES ETC. 911-8321 / 437-8159

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2 % w/out taking Car 3670169

BUSINESS RENTAL

3FLOORS COM'L APT 3612663

[illegible] Fl 300m² Kamias 9206[illegible]251248

Bodega/Office-Rent/Sale San Juan • 727-2588

Dental Office Space For Rent Call 7330443/0917-4051539

G/F Ayala Ave. 818-1696

MALATE G/F 5268048/49

Mega Plaza 30.78sqm Call 412-1825 • 0917-7914366

•Mega Plza 30sqm 12T w/lights 412-1825

Orient Sq 150sqm @ 3250 Improved Unit 412-1825

•Tektite East 50sqm @250 412-1825 / 09177914366

Orient Sq. 150m² @350/m² w/Lights Imprved Call 412-1825

Prime Office Avenida Nr. Raon Concrete Bldg. T735-6516

STORE SPACES MALATE P25T & up SN PEDRO LAGUNA P15T & up 50m² & up T-4006420•8086007

•TAIPAN 3Exe Rms @ 400 412-1825 / 09177914366

MALATE G/F 5268048/49

RESORT

Beach Prop w/ nice Nipa Huts P8.3M 911-7940

Pansol hot spring Pvt 7767507

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

94CivicESi 53Tkm,280T(N) 8937903

'94Honda 1.6 P198T 5323936

'99 Sir Fld, Set-up, 16" Mags, Subs, Call 925-8018

HYUNDAI

97Hundai Elantra 35th Km Mlg 230th 0918-9131254

98 Grace 280T Fld Complete Accesories #9276597

'99 H100 340T 9276597

KIA

'98 BESTA P268T 9276597

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

KIA

'98 PREGIO P340T 9276597

99Kia GTX 178T neg 8382015

Besta P240T Neg. 671-3535 • 733-2507 Cell. 0917-8472716

MERCEDES

'98 MB100D 395T 9276597

RUSH SALE 1987 M.Benz 190-E Black A/T Euro Version Call T#303-0502 or at Cell#0918-9057168

MITSUBISHI

95 Spacewagon M/T 8071506

NISSAN

'99 G.Coach 440T 631-3649

TOYOTA

Toyota 96 Mdl XL Red Mileage 66Tkm P220 Call 534-6610

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

FREE CHECK UP! 8am-7pm
Goodyear NGK, Mobil Motolite, Splitfire EFI
RUBBERVOLT
36 West Ave. QC
115 Mind Ave QC 9291514

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

9344988 L300 MB&Van

BrdalMB/Vans 9296250/4535288

Van Coaster Bus 440-91-71

FXcheaprates3730584Cathy

HiAce L300 Urvan 8257135

IT/ Hiace 9136710/4333682

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

Sansui Vans & cars 24hrs 9268827 / 4319167

SELF-DRIVE New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS ABC 5368822/3039789

STAREX L3 9121809/7268388

Udrive CARS VANS 8006595

WANTED TO BUY

We Buy Cars Vans P-Ups at High Price • 671-8191

CAR LOAN

1.5 % Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

SPORTING GOODS

Billiard Table Marble Top Accept C.Card 23T 25T & 30T 781-9453

Imported Billiard 22T, 35T complete acc's. 8618714 to 16 / 8613123 / 8613125

WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

BUYING ROLEX others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

SPUG-MMSS-01-014

Interested Suppliers are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids to be opened publicly at the National Power Corporation, Strategic Power Utilities Group, 2nd Floor, Training Center Bldg., BIR Road cor. Quezon Avenue, Quezon City and at SPUG-Visayas Training Center, 1558 Edison St., Lahug, Cebu City.

VENUE: 2F TRAINING CENTER BLDG., DILIMAN, Q.C.

BIDDING DATE: JULY 04, 2001
TIME: 10:00 AM

IN CASE OF FAILED BIDDING, DOCUMENTS WILL BE RE-ISSUED ON JULY 04, 2001 UNTIL JULY 10, 2001.

AUTOMATIC RE-BIDDING
DATE: JULY 11, 2001
TIME: 10:00 AM

SCHED	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
PB010704-PDPV0633	CABLE TERMINATION KIT, MULTITURN POTENTIOMETERS
PB010704-PDPV0634	ZINC PROTECTOR ANODE
PB010704-PDPV0635	GENERATOR CLEANER, NON-TOXIC
PB010704-PDAM0636	THERMOCOUPLE ASSEMBLY, TYPE: K CTF-105S (REKADENKI)
PB010704-PDAM0637	MECHANICAL SPARE PARTS FOR 448KW CKD GENSET
PB010704-PDGP0638	MECHANICAL SPARE PARTS FOR 1224KW CKD GENSET
PB010704-PDAM0639	FILTERING SIEVE FOR SELF-CLEANING OIL FILTER
PB010704-PDAM0641	ELECTRICAL SPARE PARTS FOR DALE GENSET

VENUE: SPUG-VISAYAS TRAINING CENTER

BIDDING DATE: JUNE 28, 2001
TIME: 2:00 PM

PR NUMBER	REFERENCE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
7WV-BTY-01-021 7WV-SIO-01-0012	PB062800DCA0025A	JO: TO SUPPLY LABOR & MATLS. FOR FABRICATION OF GEN/RUBBER COUPLING
PB116-01-16	PB062800DCA0026B	JO: TO PROVIDE LABOR, EQPT. & MATLS. FOR THE REPAIR OF SERVICE VEHICLE
7EV-CAM01-008 PB113-01-A6-008 PB116-01-02	PB062800DCA0027C	JO: TO SUPPLY LABOR & TRANSP. FOR HAULING OF DIESEL FUEL FROM T-BOAT AT PORO PORT TO CAMOTES DPP
7VO-B06-01-025 7VO-B06-01-026	PB062800DCA0028D	O-RINGS, FOR DAIHATSU 12DK 32B
7VO-B06-01-008	PB062800DCA0029E	GENERATOR CLEANER
7VO-B06-01-004	PB062800DCA0030F	GLAND PACKING
PB116-01-19	PB062800DCA0031G	BATTERY
PB01-2001-076 PB01-2001-077	PB062800DCA0032H	IMPELLER, SUBMERGED BEARING
PB01-2001-088 PB01-2001-089	PB062800DCA00331	FIBERGLASS TUBE, GASKET TUBE, COOLING
PB116-01-17 PB116-01-09	PB062800DCA0034J	SPARES, ELECTRICAL

RE-BIDDING DATE: JUNE 28, 2001
TIME: 2:00 PM

PR NUMBER	REFERENCE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
7EV-CAM-01-006	PB052900DCA0021H(PB2)	JO: TO PROVIDE LABOR, VESSEL, CONTAINERS AND EQPT. FOR THE DELIVERY OF DIESEL FUEL
PB116-01-06	PB052900DCA0014A(PB2)	PURIFIED DRINKING WATER
PB105-01-A2-0003 PB113-01-A6-008 PB116-01-02	PB052900DCA0016C(PB2)	ELECTRICAL INSTRUMENTS
7VO-B03-00-113	PB052900DCA0018E(PB2)	GASKET, NON ASBESTOS

BIDDING DATE: JULY 06, 2001
TIME: 2:00 PM

PR NUMBER	REFERENCE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
PB01-2001-099	PB070601DCA0035A	CARTRIDGE FILTER
PB01-2001-112	PB070601DCA0036B	RING SEAL
PB01-2001-111	PB070601DCA0037C	CRANSHAFT ASSEMBLY AND ACCESSORIES
PB01-2001-109	PB070601DCA0038D	CONTROL CABLE, IGNITION COIL
7WV-SIO-01-0005	PB070601DCA0039E	HYDRAULIC COUPLING
7VO-B06-01-001	PB070601DCA0040F	JO: REPAIR OF SMOKE STACK
7VO-B03-01-027	PB070601DCA0041G	JO: TO SUPPLY LABOR AND MATLS. IN THE REPAIR AND RENEWAL OF COWL VENT
7VO-MTV-01-57	PB070601DCA0042H	TORQUE WRENCH
7EV-MOO01-007	PB070601DCA0043I	AUTO BATTERY
7WV-SIO-01-0013	PB070601DCA0044J	BEARING

Only accredited suppliers/haulers/brokers can participate in the bidding. All bids shall be secured with a bid bond in the amount equivalent to five (5%) percent of the total bid. The bid security shall be in the form of cash bonds, manager's check, cashier's checks or surety bond issued by GSIS. As for non-NPC accredited suppliers/haulers/brokers, application forms for accreditation will be issued at Materials Management Department, National Power Corporation cor. Quezon Avenue & BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City between 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished bid forms addressed to the Manager, Administrative Services Division, Strategic Power Utilities Group (SPUG) before the time and date of the scheduled bidding. ALL ITEMS MUST BE DELIVERED AT SITE.

Bidding documents will be available to qualified interested parties starting June 21, 2001 upon payment of P50.00 per schedule for bidding of supplies which is non-refundable and upon presentation of company I.D., company authorization and Original Certificate of Accreditation issued by NPC - H.O./MMRC/SLRC/NLRC/MRC/VRC and upon presentation of Certificate of Outstanding Performance from the Region. Issuance and receipt of documents are done every morning between 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. only at the above mentioned address.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT SERVICES SECTION
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
PSD-SPUG

(PDI - June 19, 2001)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T8342886

Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair ROLEX Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

WE BUY ROLEX 5633742 5646593 09174383744

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

BARBERS w/Exp. Hi-Pay Salary Call 656-3626 • 724-4388

Driver w/exp 1mo. Motorcycle 9206694;9251348

FEMALE

1Cook 1Yaya 726-1266

MD. & Skin Therapists Call Naty / Josie 721-9227 or 28

Pre-School Teacher Pref w/ Liscence/ Board Passer BSEE Grad. 941-4361

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T5280722

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

20 Office Personnel Coll Grad/Lev 18-28 yrs old Call Tel 854-8595 854-1166 Look for Mr. Omos

Graphic Artist • 727-8476

Ofc Staf 9134470 Chelou

•Ofc Staff 9134470 Ms Area

Office Prsnl 713-6116 / RIC

•Urgent Office Personnels• Call 416-9439 Ms Camile

URGENT OFFICE STAFF PLS CALL MS. JANICE #7366660

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Specialized in USA/Japan/ Canada/Europe and other Int'l Tourist VISA/Australian /New Zealand & Canadian Immigrant/Student VISA Assitance. Call Marikina Main Office 934-2070 / 71 / 72
Pasig Branch 642-2436

AUCTION SALE

NATION Pawnshop, Inc. Poblacion, Meyc. Bulacan will sell all unredeemed pledges of Dec. 2000 on June 22, '01, 10am. *Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer.*

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EARN FR HOME 8531008/5252230

Instant Sariling Negosyo Call 635-6217 • 631-9440

NORITAKE GREAT WHITE SALE!!! Factory Seconds 70% Disc. Available only at:
LIVELIHOOD ARCADE and Food Court, Now Open only few stalls 4 rent sale promo: TV 20, 25 inch 2,5T, VHS IT, Laser Printer 3T, car Bat. (new) 1T, (US Surplus) East Ave., Q.C. across LTO, besides Petron Tel-9296286

RTW Ideal 4 Tiange 3738821

Supervisor P25T/mo. 8951381

Work From Home 8937903

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late CORAZON S. CAMAYA has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs on Dec. 4, 2000 under Doc.#499 Page#101 Book#XXXIX Series 2000 Before Notary Public Arturo A. Dimain of Pasig City PDI June 12, 19, 26, 2001

Your
career
might
only
be
a
click
of
the
mouse
away.

JOBMarket ONLINE

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

ATTENTION!!!

IN LINE WITH THE FAST APPROACHING E-COMMERCE CHALLENGES, WE SHALL SOON LAUNCH OUR CONSUMERS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM — AN ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES TO THOUSANDS OF CONSUMERS NATIONWIDE; WHICH IN EFFECT ALSO CREATES SERVICE BUSINESS POTENTIALS TO HUNDREDS OF ENTREPRENEURS...

WE STILL HAVE OPENINGS FOR BUSINESS CENTER OPERATIONS (BCO) AND SUB-CENTER OPERATIONS (SCO) NATIONWIDE. INTERESTED PARTIES WHO HAVE THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS/ REQUIREMENTS MAY CONTACT US FOR APPOINTMENT AND BUSINESS ORIENTATION:

BUSINESS CENTER OPERATOR (BCO)

1. Letter of intent with personal and business information.
2. Adequate office space and facilities for the meetings/trainings of at least 20 persons at any given time.
3. Online computer/s, telephone and communication facilities.
4. At least P120,000.00 operating cash and one full-time staff paid by the center.
5. Service-oriented and gets along with people.

SUB-CENTER OPERATOR (SCO)

1. Letter of intent with personal and business information.
2. Service-oriented and gets along with people.
3. At least P20,000.00 cash for a group promotions.

Benefits and Income Opportunities: Free trainings and technical supports, incentives, bonuses, dealers' profit margin, continuing nationwide and global advertising/promotions and global expansions, etc.

Mail to/ Contact:
RISE E-COMMERCE SYSTEMS/RISE GROUP OF COMPANIES
Unit 3604 City & Land Megaplaza, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Complex 1605 Pasig City
Telefax: (02) 687-4311 Email: risephilippines@hotmail.com Text: 0919-592-4258 / 0919-212-3230

ALL CONSUMERS WHO ARE INTERESTED TO EARN ADDITIONAL MONTHLY INCOME, & LOCAL SUPPLIERS MAY CONTACT THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS CENTERS:

Marikina City
RISE LILIAN REYES REALTY
153G I. Mendoza St., San Roque, Marikina City
Tel. No.: (02) 646-8452 • Text: 0919-2123230

Western Visayas / Panay Island
Mr. William (Bogs) Ferolino
RISE PHILS. MULTIRICH CORPORATION
2nd Flr. AMIGO PLAZA, Iznart St., 5000 Iloilo City
Telefax: (033) 337-9252 Text: 0917-5141369

FOR BIDDING

NICE CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND PARTS GOOD CONDITION -- READY TO USE

2-40 TON CRAWLER CRANE
1-36 TON CRAWLER CRANE
1-35 TON CRAWLER CRANE
2-25 TON CRAWLER CRANE
1-15 TON CRAWLER CRANE
2-25 TON TRUCKMOUNTED CRANE
1-20 TON TRUCKMOUNTED CRANE
1-HALLA WHEEL BACKHOE
1-SUMITOMO CRAWLER BACKHOE
1-FURUKAWA WHEEL LOADER WITH BACKHOE
3-16-25 TON VIBRO COMPACTOR
3-3-STEEL WHEEL ROAD ROLLER
6-2-4 TON VIBRATORY ROLLER
1-7-TON QUADRO VIBRO ROLLER
1-5-TON U.S. ARMY DUMP TRUCK
1-FUSO SELF LOADING TRUCK
1-FUSO TRUCK W/ CRANE
1-ISUZU FLAT BED TRUCK
2-60 TON LOW BED TRAILER
1-25 TON LOW BED TRAILER
3-20-40 TON ROCK GRAPPLE
3-LOGGING/TRAILER WINCH
2-HYD. CONCRETE BREAKER
CLAMSHELL / DRAGLINE BUCKETS
FAIRLEADS / TAGLINES

PLUS MANY OTHER PARTS, ACCESSORIES AND ATTACHMENTS WHICH YOU MAYBE ABLE TO USE, SO COME AND VISIT US.

FOR BID FORM AND OTHER INQUIRIES.
Look/Call for Mrs. Lu - Tel. 5634506/08 or 5634498
Address: 2560 New Panaderos St., Sta. Ana, Manila near Sta. Ana Church.

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION FOR NEGOTIATED OFFER

The Development Bank of the Philippines will entertain offers on a First-Come, First-Served basis at the Special Accounts Management Department, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
LRD-138	Loyola Grand Villas Subdivision, Barangka, Marikina City	1,320 sqm. residential lot (TCT No. 204465)	P 7,920,000.00
LTY-50	35 Sto. Niño St., Ma. Corazon Subdivision, Cupang, Antipolo City	520 sqm. two (2) parcels industrial/residential lots (TCT Nos. 284045 & 284046) with two-storey office/factory buildings and one set cold storage freezer	P 3,243,000.00
LTY-139	15 Sampaguita St., Tres Hermanas Subdivision, Mayamot, Antipolo City	330 sqm. residential lot (TCT No. N-58107) with one-storey building	P 1,368,000.00
BULACAN			
MED-123	402 Bo. Tangos, Baliwag, Bulacan	240 sqm. residential lot (TCT No. T-128269) with building and improvements	P 456,100.00
PAMPANGA			
LDA-122	Sitio Teracan, Macabebe, Pampanga	87,656 sqm. lot utilized as fish pond (TCT No. 484782-R)	P 2,885,300.00
PANGASINAN			
VCP-90	Pagal District, San Carlos City	11,200 sqm. four (4) parcels of adjoining industrial lot (TCT Nos. 32082 to 32085) with buildings and improvements	P15,857,000.00
CHATTELS (Sale on "as-is, where-is" and per unit basis)			
VPI-60	EPZA, Rosario, Cavite	1 set Portable Concrete Batching Plant	P 594,000.00
VPI-62	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	15 units of heavy equipment and vehicles	P 8,100.00 to P 623,600.00/unit
VAB (69a-69o)	No. 428 10th Ave., East corner Kampupot St., Grace Park, Caloocan City	19 units of various machineries and equipment for manufacture of plastic wares and industrial items	P 15,000.00 to P 560,000.00/unit

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(PDI – June 19, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Regional Health Office no. 1
Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center
Batac, Ilocos Norte
Telefax#: 077-792-3133; E-mail address: mmmh@laoag.net

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The **Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center**, Batac, Ilocos Norte, hereby invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the design and installation of Local Area Network (LAN), supply, delivery of Computer equipment. Supporting the *Integrated Hospital Operation and Management System* which comprises of two lots, as follows:

Lot 1:

a) Interconnection of four (4) Major buildings at MMMH & MC;
b) Network design of fiber optic backbone and UTP Cat. 5e in-house cabling;
c) Supply, delivery, installation, configuration and documentation of Network equipment and materials with Network Administration Software.
d) Conduct training and supervision of MMMH personnel on the operation, configuration and administration of the Network system.

Lot 2: Includes the supply, delivery, installation, configuration and documentation of the following:

a) 5 units PC workstations;
b) 1 unit Dual Pentium III Processors Server;
c) 1 set SQL Server;
d) 5 units Uninterruptible Power Supply, 750 VA
e) 1 unit Uninterruptible Power Supply, 2 KVA

Schedule of Activities:

1. Pre-qualification and Issuance of Bid Documents .... **June 25-29, 2001** (9:30-3:30 p.m.)
2. Pre-bidding Conference .... **July 4, 2001** (9:30 a.m.)
3. Submission of Bid Documents ... **August 8, 2001** (on or before 10:00 a.m.)

Pre-qualified bidders may obtain bid documents upon payment of six hundred pesos (P600.00), which is not refundable, and upon presentation of Notice of Invitation and Certificate of accreditation.

The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without giving any reasons thereto, to waive any informalities of defects therein or to accept such bids as maybe considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **WENDELL Q. CALDERON, M.D., MHA**
PBAC-ITR Chairman

(PDI – June 19, 2001)

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID (2PQ0299RCC-004)

The GENCO-1 Regional Contracts Committee (RCC) is inviting contractors to prequalify and to bid for the SUPPLY OF SECURITY SERVICES FOR THE FOLLOWING GENCO-1 PLANTS, FACILITIES AND REGIONAL OFFICES:

Schedule I - BTPP
Schedule II - BCCPP
Schedule V - MEC/MSG
Schedule VI - RBO

Application for prequalification is open to wholly owned Filipino Private Security Agency with valid license issued by the PNP-SOSIA and with at least three (3) years experience

Applicants may participate and prequalify for two schedules but the award of contract will be limited to one schedule. Previously prequalified agencies may maintain or choose another schedule but have to comply with the requirements, and for those who were awarded the contract for Schedules III, IV and VII will no longer be entitled in any prequalification and bidding activity.

Prequalification Forms shall be available for issuance starting June 07 to 22, 2001 at the Contracts Management Office (CMO), Third Floor, NPC GENCO-1 Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila. Applicants shall be issued Prequalification Form upon presentation of original copy of the applicant's PNP-SOSIA License, together with the Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) per copy.

For purposes of prequalification and bidding activities, the following schedule will be observed:

Submission of Prequalification Documents	June 27, 2001	8 AM to 6 PM
Issuance of Bid Documents	July 20, 2001	8 AM to 5 PM
Pre-Bid Conference	July 27, 2001	10 AM
Submission and Opening of Bids	August 7, 2001	10 AM

The NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the Corporation. The NPC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparations of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) LORNA T. DY
Officer-in-Charge, RAFS
And Chairman, RCC

(PDI – June 7, 13 & 19, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Regional Field Office No.
MARIANO MARCOS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER
Batac, Ilocos Norte

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center, Batac, Ilocos Norte, hereby invites eligible suppliers, manufacturers and/or exclusive distributors to bid for the delivery and supply of the following equipment:

LOT 1 - 35 UNITS OF WINDOW TYPE AIRCONDITIONERS
LOT 2 - 37 UNITS FIRE EXTINGUISHERS & 21 UNITS SMOKE DETECTORS &
8 UNITS FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, FOR REFILL
LOT 3 - SUPPLY, DELIVERY & INSTALLATION OF PABX

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

	PRE-BID CONFERENCE	SUBMISSION & OPENING OF SEALED BIDS
LOT 1 & 2	JUNE 26, 2001	JULY 10, 2001
LOT 3	JUNE 27, 2001	JULY 11, 2001

Pre-bid conference for each category shall be conducted as stated above at 9:30 a.m. sharp at the MMMH & MC Mini-Conference Room, same venue & time for the submission & opening of sealed bids. Bid forms can be secured at the Supply Office upon payment of a non-refundable fee of SIX HUNDRED PESOS (P600.00). Sealed bids must be accompanied with a Bidder's Bond equivalent to 5% of the total price in the proposal but not to exceed P20,000.00, either in cash, manager's check or GSIS Surety Bond payable to MMMH & MC.

The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center, reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without giving any reasons thereto, to waive any informalities or defects therein or to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **REYNALDO B. NARAVAL, M.D.**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI - June 19, 2001)

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Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) through the National Educational Testing and Research Center (NETRC) is inviting all interested parties for the Printing of Scannable Answer Sheets/Certificates of Rating/Non Classified Materials and Computerization for the Year 2001-2002 NEAT, NSAT, PEPT AND ALPES Projects.

All interested parties must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting June 15 to 25, 2001 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm 112 A. Mabini Bldg., ULTRA Complex, Pasig City.

A pre-bid conference will be held on June 25, 2001, 2:00 PM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City. The submission and opening of bids will be on July 3, 2001 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI--June 17, 18, & 19, 2001)

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Ernesto "Estoy" Perez Dimaano

Born July 24, 1910
in San Juan, Batangas

Passed away on June 10, 2001
in Carrollton, Texas
at the age of 90.

Ernesto is survived by his 8 children **Ernesto C. Dimaano, Jr.** and wife **Brenda**, **Pilar D. Harris** and husband **Gerald**, **Teresita Aala** and husband **Van**, **Lucia D. Villegas** and husband **Gem**, **Cecilia D. Benedicto** and husband **Frank**, **Dante C. Dimaano** and wife **Liza**, **Aleli D. Shaw** and husband **James** and **Gus C. Dimaano** and his wife **Celia**; 12 grandchildren and 6 great grand children.

Interment was on June 14, 2001 at Restland Memorial Park in Dallas, Texas.

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life,
neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,
neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
that is Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 8:38-39

CATALINA JIMENEA VALMADRID

of Manila

His loving husband **Brigido**; loving children **Anthony**, **Katherine** and **Benedict**; mother **Encarnacion**, relatives and friends request the kind readers to pray for her eternal rest.

Her body lies in state at Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 23, 2001.

ROSITA CONLU SUPETRAN

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on June 17, 2001 at the age of 86.

Her remains lie in state in their residence in Jagnaya, Jamindan, Capiz.

Interment will be at the family mausoleum after the 10:00 AM Mass on Sunday, June 24, 2001.

ESTELA RAYMUNDO LEGASPI

Joined her Creator on June 15, 2001
at the age of 74.

Holy Mass prior to interment
rescheduled to 1:20 p.m.,
Wednesday, June 20, 2001 at
Immaculate Concepcion Parish Church,
Pasig City.
Interment will be at the
Pasig Catholic Cemetery.

DOMNINA E. RUEDA

Peacefully joined our Creator on June 14, 2001
at the age of 71.

Her remains lie in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapel, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, June 21, 2001 at the Eternal Garden Memorial Park, Balintawak, Quezon City after the 9:00 AM Mass at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Kanlaon Street, Retiro, Quezon City.

Kiwanian Alex C. Calayag

Died on June 16, 2001
at the age of 50.

His remains lie in state at the United Methodist Church, Tangos, Navotas, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 23, 2001.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

ANTONIO AREVALO RAVAL

of Laoag City

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on June 10, 2001
in Los Angeles, California at the age of 66.

His bereaved wife **ERLINDA**; mother **ISABEL A. RAVAL**; brothers and sisters **JOHNNY** (†) and **EDITH**, **TRINIDAD** and **WILMA**, **INOCENCIA** and **ROMEO CABEBE**, **FRANCINE** and **ANA**; nephews, nieces, grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Garden Suite, Loyola Memorial Chapels.

Interment will be on June 22, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Chapels.

BENJAMIN V. CELLONA

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 16, 2001 at the age of 72.

He is survived by his loving wife **Fe**; children **Minnie** and **Ray**, **Tellie** and **Jun**, **Gadong** and **Lorie**, **Lester** and **Louie**, **Inday** and **Aming**; brothers, sisters, grandchildren and other relatives.

His remains lie in state at his residence at 121 Matimtiman Street, Sikatuna Village, Quezon City.

Mass and interment will be announced later.

We will all miss him, and the memories of his great love will forever remain in our hearts.

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Davao City
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INQUIRER Classified Aurora branch will be opened to receive ads starting tomorrow, June 20, 2001.

Mass housing reforms pushed

REP. Ernesto Herrera (Lakas, Bohol) has endorsed the proposal to set a cap on the interest rates charged by banks on loans for socialized housing.

Said Herrera: "We really have to impose an interest rate ceiling for socialized housing loans to encourage more borrowing. And now is the best time to do that because interest rates are on a general downtrend."

"We in organized labor consider socialized housing as a crucially important reform that would help jumpstart the economy and provide much-needed new jobs," said Herrera, secretary general of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines.

"We really have to revitalize the funding system for socialized housing if we are to ease the estimated backlog of 4.5 million units nationwide," added Herrera, former chair of the Senate labor and employment committee.

Herrera stressed that "we cannot encourage private developers to sustain their investments in socialized housing if there are not enough buyers." "And buyers won't be coming in unless banks offer them lower rates that are fixed throughout the 25-year (loan) term," he added.

The Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations Inc. (Creba) first advanced the proposal to set a cap on bank lending rates for socialized housing.

Creba is also pushing for a home-financing program that would provide centralized funding and decentralized lending.

The group also wants the Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System and the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. (Pag-Ibig Fund) to collectively put up a P100-billion permanent revolving seed fund that would be matched by P120 billion in fresh housing funds that would be tapped from the private sector.

Developers back moves to cut housing red tape

REAL estate developers and housing producers, affiliated with the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, have expressed strong support to the government moves to cut red tape in the processing of housing loans and in the grant of permits for housing development.

Mariano D. Martinez Jr., SHDA national president, said that real estate developers are banking on the commitment made earlier by Secretary Michael T. Defensor, presidential housing adviser and chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council further streamline housing permit processes.

Martinez cited that in its first 100-day shelter agenda, the HUDCC also committed to facilitate the issuance of a presidential directive to order the Departments of Interior and Local Government, Environment and Natural Resources, Agrarian Reform and the HUDCC to further reduce the number of days in the processing of housing-related clearances and permits required from local government units and said departments.

These include the processing and approval of land conversion certificates by the DAR; issuance of environmental clearance certificates by the DENR; and of subdivision development permits by concerned local government units, Martinez pointed out.

Under the proposed presidential directive, the concerned government departments will be allowed simultaneous processing of housing-related permits and clearances; and to set specific deadlines to unclog procedural bottlenecks that hamper subdivision development and the speedy delivery of low-cost housing units, he said.

The HUDCC's initiatives in cutting administrative red tape in housing is consistent with the thrust of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's administration to fast-track housing production.

"This is part of the overall strategy to pump prime economic activities as well as address the housing backlog, while generating new employment and livelihood opportunities particularly for the homeless and the disadvantaged," Martinez added.

EASTWOOD EXCELSIOR STARTS CONSTRUCTION

Property-based holding firm Megaworld Corp. recently broke ground for the Eastwood Excelsior, a twin-tower residential development which joins Olympic Heights and Eastwood Lafayette at the residential side of Eastwood City. The Eastwood Excelsior luxury condominium residences come in studio as well as one- and two-bedroom units. The twin towers, with a stunning architecture that seemingly blends the contemporary and old world styles, rest on a seven-story podium in front of a porte-cochere with a central fountain and featuring a grand entrance lobby. From left are Ophir Construction operations manager Armando Gonzales, Advance Foundation GM Etorre Rossi, structural engineer Rogelio Menguito, Advance Foundation EVP Joel Arceo, Design Alliance architect Lawrence Raule and Eastwood Excelsior marketing executive John Natividad.

Breakthrough control measure on cockroaches identified

THROUGH the years, pest control has been one of the major problems several companies and manufacturing firms encounter. A great factor of quality control and customer satisfaction depends on sanitation measures, which tackle pest control among its parts.

Several methods have been invented and innovated yet only a few remain to be really effective. These small creatures can be totally uncontrollable and destructive if not given proper physical and chemical treatment.

Agriculturist Jose Pabale, a certified pest applicator for 14 years, testifies on a breakthrough pest control measure used on cockroaches, one of the most rapid growing and rampant pests we have in the country. Cockroaches are mostly found in kitchen and cooking areas of the house that are dark and wet, on open crack spots and spaces where there is food for them to eat. One of the most common species found in most homes, the American cockroach has a life span of three year, the engineer explained. It has the ability to lay eggs every week, resulting to a maximum of 90 times reproduction capacity. These eggs that are hatched every 50 to 55 days contain 14 to 16 egg capsules, to a total of about 140 cockroaches born out of a single adult. These roaches carry potentially lethal bacteria that are harmful to humans. So if you see a single cockroach crawling around your kitchen area, you better start thinking of how much more might be hidden in the dark spots of your house.

Pabale is both a certified fumigator (controls stored food pests) and exterminator (controls common house pests that include cockroaches). He has served several establishments, supermarkets, restaurants and is now employed as a corporate macro hygienist in one of the leading food manufacturing firms in the country. Here are some of the relevant information people ask him on pest control, especially on cockroach control measures:

How would you describe your work as pest control officer?

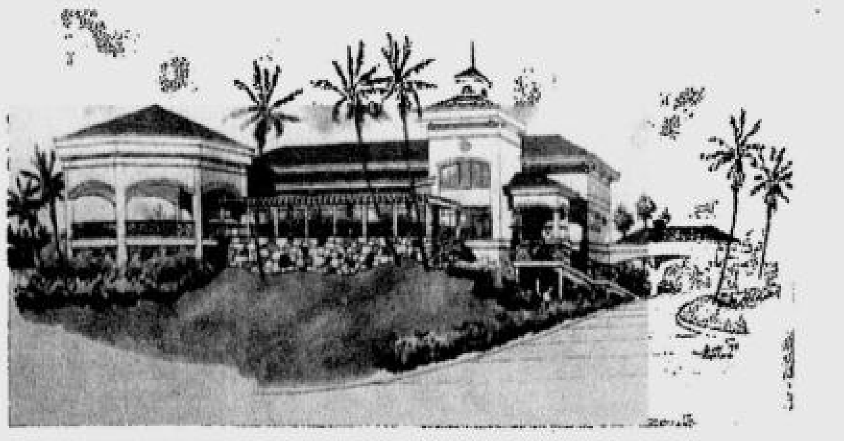
"*Ang mga ibinebenta kasi naming mga produkto ay* susceptible *sa peste kaya dapat masiguro ang proseso ay* pest-free. *Ang* responsibility *namin ay hindi lang sa planta kundi hanggang doon sa* end-consumer *na kukuha, gagamit o kakain ng produkto, kailangang laging* fresh at siguradong safe."

So what are the control measures you apply to prevent or at least, control the rapid growth and reproduction of these pests?

"*Iba-iba ang* treatment *diyan, depende sa lugar at sa uri ng peste, pero ang importante diyan,* i-treat *yung* harborage o *yung tinitirahan ng peste para talagang mas epektibo at mamatay lahat.*"

So what product/treatment do you use to successfully fulfill your duties?

"*Ang ginagamit ko ngayon yung* Goliath Gel. *Inapply ko siya sa isa sa mga kliyente ko, sa* Hain's Restaurant (one of the popular food stops in Cabuyao, Laguna), *in-apply ko ng gabi sa* cooking area, around second week of June. Surprisingly, *kinabukasan* after six or seven hours, *nakita ng mga* cook *na marami nang patay na ipis.* Continuously, after one month *marami pa ring namamatay, hanggang sa paisa-isa na lang, hanggang nitong* medyo *recently wala na.*



THE ARCHITECT'S perspective of Georgetown Lakeview Vacation Estate's clubhouse

Georgetown to open clubhouse soon

The construction of Georgetown Lakeview Vacation Estate's clubhouse in Metro Tagaytay is now in full swing in time for its inauguration very soon.

The 800-square-meter clubhouse is located at the topmost point of the estate. Designed for the exclusive use of Georgetown residents, it provides modern amenities in relaxing, rustic casual ambience.

The clubhouse features an indoor heated swimming pool, a fitness center, a coffee shop, a poolside bar and a game room where one can enjoy a round of billiards, table tennis, darts, chess and the latest video games with family and friends.

Georgetown Lakeview Vacation Estate offers American country-style homes that give residents a spectacular, unobstructed view of the Taal lake and volcano. It was specifically planned for families, retirees and weekend vacationers.

Riverbanks Center to construct arcade

RIVERBANKS Center will construct a 2,310-square-meter Riverbank's Arcade that will house 24-hour service-oriented establishments that include a pharmacy, convenience store, coffee shops, restaurants, banks, health and beauty shops, fitness center and computer shops service village, multi-level marketing offices and showroom. This is in line with Riverbanks Center's continuous development and expansion program.

"We need additional space for lease to accommodate our fast-growing number of tenants that's why we thought of converting other spaces into another commercial building," said Serge Mendoza, Riverbanks AVP for sales and marketing.

The new building will be strategically located near the main entrance of the center facing A. Bonifacio Avenue, making it more accessible to the shoppers.

The expansion program aims to accommodate more tenants that will complement the shops inside the Riverbanks Mall. Currently, the mall has a total of 200 stores which include Save-More Supermarket, Handyman, Green Gallery, Fashion Forum, Jun Encarnacion, Les Pappu, Save-on-Surplus, Sarabia Optical, Acebedo Optical, it-Net, Printworks, Wellcomm Telecom, Itti Shoes, Abenson, Gibi Shoes and the whole-year round Trade Hall Exhibit.

Riverbanks Mall's reputation spread through words of mouth. It is also known for warehouse-type or factory-outlet retail stores like Guess USA Clearance Outlet, Converse Shoes Factory Outlet and Off-Price Department Store.

These days, residents from Marikina, Pasig, Quezon City as well as Makati and Manila come in droves to check out the mall which has become known for its convenient shopping and its wide array of imported and locally made products at rock-bottom prices. The mall has increased its customer traffic from an average of 24,000 people a day last year to 51,000 people a day this year. For weekends, the figure stands at 63,000 to 70,000 people per day.

The Riverbanks Arcade is expected to open before September this year.

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PREFERED ALLIANCE

Electronic Realty Associates (ERA) Philippines Inc., the Philippine arm of a US-based global membership organization that links licensed real estate firms to home and office buyers, has signed up Customcraft Collection for its prefered alliance program. This multifaceted marketing program meets a market demand for a total yet cost-beneficial home and office package. Established in 1987, Customcraft Collection is a designer and manufacturer of fine-quality, high-end furniture made from a wide range of materials from wood to metal, from Mactan and fossilized stone to "Shagreen" sharkskin. The products are available in sanded finish and in various shades and color. Shown are ERA Philippines' CEO and country president Enrique Soriano III and Customcraft general manager Rogelio Go.

Design contest winners known

SIX architects won the design contest sponsored by MGS Corp. and the United Architects of the Philippines.

Winners in the residential category were architects Corazon Barias, first prize; Josephine Custodio, second; and Edwin Bautista, third.

In the commercial category, the winners were architects Maybelle del Castillo, first prize; Danny Silvestre, second; and Elias Pernecita, third.

UAP president Hedy Luis and MGS general manager awarded the prizes to the winners during the closing ceremonies of the UAP conference

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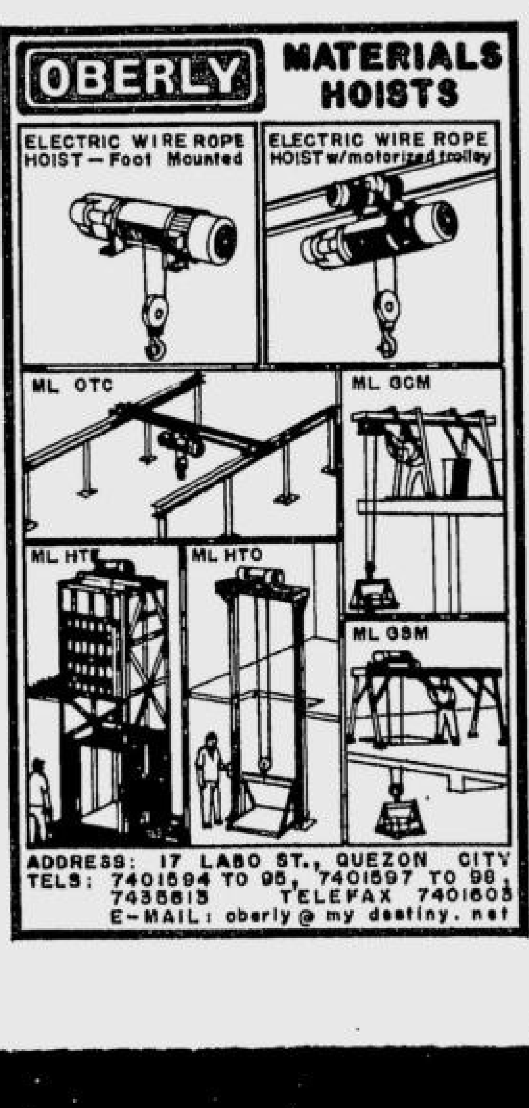
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Low-income Filipinos can buy houses if...

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

WHO can afford to buy houses these days? Most young newlyweds—particularly the middle- to low-income ones—would be forced to stay in their parents' homes and form an extended family since their pooled funds are not enough to buy a house. Another alternative is they rent an apartment.

But can the government and private developers come up with truly affordable housing? What are the factors to consider before such a program can become a reality?

If the government, for instance, can solve the housing problems of some of its 1.3 million employees, that alone can address the country's large backlog for housing, which stands at 650,000 units a year. If the private sector—the financial institutions in particular—could dig in their pockets and pour in more funds for home financing, that would spell backroom support for acquiring a house.

As developers reiterate, if the government can only provide a conducive climate for tax incentives, guarantees and mobilization of the secondary mortgage market system just like in other countries, more financial institutions would support the housing sector.

If the government can only utilize or adopt new technologies for construction or adopt innovative materials, allow a fast lane on importation of technologies that are easily applicable in the country, this could help fast-track the construction of houses and lower the cost of construction.

Crucial role

Instead of selling prime lots and idle lands to private corporations, the government can use these for housing. The Subdivision and Housing Developers Association Inc., an organization of 300 small and big developers involved in vertical and horizontal housing (condominiums and single-detached houses), revealed that an estimated 30 percent of the cost of the house goes to land purchases. The SHDA reiterates that the government plays a crucial role in initiating land banking.

The production arm of the government—the National Housing Authority—is also mandated to utilize land banking, which is the framework of urban development. The government also can identify its plans that can be made available for socialized housing.

Filipino developers, in previous interviews, cited the government had been selling prime land instead of becoming more forward looking. They said national and local governments should identify sites to be used for housing, and that the government should buy these now for future housing projects.

Areas suitable for mass housing

SHDA executive director Sonny Ducay cited that Republic Act 7279 had one major provision, which says that local government units must identify areas that are suitable for socialized housing. If that would only be solved and identified and the private sector and the government would work as a team, there would be houses for low-income Filipinos.

On the average, 30 percent of the cost of the house is accounted for by construction materials, while 30 percent is accounted for by the cost of the land. Another 30 percent goes to labor, cited Ducay.

How do government and developers enhance the affordability of low-income houses?

Ducay said the government sets the value of the houses. It also sets how much, for example, an applicant can loan with the corresponding interest rates.

SHDA guarantee fund

The secondary mortgage market system is needed, said Ducay. The SHDA, for instance, established a guaranty fund wherein it guarantees 100-percent collection efficiency for a period of two years.

"(The) SHDA can guarantee Pag-Ibig that if those house buyers (who have loans from Pag-Ibig) wouldn't be able to pay, we, the developers, will pay for two years via our established fund," said Ducay.

Two years is the critical period for all borrowers.

The SHDA guarantee fund was established to support and pave the way for the operationalization of the secondary mortgage market system that will encourage more investors—in particular the private institutions—to pour money into mortgage financing.

This will provide more funds that can be made available for housing. The government's responsibility, thus, rests in providing a more conducive climate for this system to happen.

The government should also improve the quality of mortgages, said developers. This means the banks and financial institutions would be able to screen those who loan.

Ducay also said that people should be educated on loans responsibility. "Sometimes residents don't pay dues if they see no action from the government. The government should show its political will on this issue," he said.

COMUNIDADES PRESENTATION

Comunidades Developers Inc. president Enrique Moras, standing, conducts a presentation to investors on the features of Parque Bonifacio, a plush residential condominium situated at Fort Bonifacio Global City. The presentation, which was held at Shangrila Makati Hotel, also included the benefits of owning a home the Comunidades way, patterned after the Comunidades concept from Spain pioneered by Moras in the Philippines. From left are Tere de Leon, PSC Commissioner Cynthia Carrion, Joyce Artadi, Judy Chan, Shirley Siy, Corrine Yabut and Priscilla Escueta.

Sta. Lucia develops subdivision for ICT professionals

STA. Lucia Property Realty and Development Inc. is constructing a new residential community positioned for professionals of the growing information communication technology (ICT) sector based in the growth corridor of Bulacan, Pampanga and northern Metro Manila.

The Cyberville subdivision project is located on Cagayan Valley Road, Sta Rita, in Guiguinto, Bulacan. It covers an initial seven hectares and will have community amenities such as multipurpose clubhouse, swimming pool, children's park and playground, basketball and tennis courts.

The project's engineering will include the construction of underground storm drainage system, a paved road network, an interrelated water system, deepwell water pumps, and a large overhead water tank. Shade trees will be planted along the subdivision's main road.

Lot areas are a minimum 80 square meters. Sta Lucia is offering light payment terms for upstart families. The in-house financing scheme dictates a 24 percent down payment, interest-free terms for the first year of payment, and a 10-year period to pay for the balance at 18 percent interest. A mandatory reservation fee of P5,000 will be charged.

The subdivision is located near the Sta Rita exit of the North Luzon Expressway. Guiguinto is adjacent to Malolos, Bulacan. Handling the sales and marketing of Cyberville Subdivision is the Asian Pacific Group of Companies.

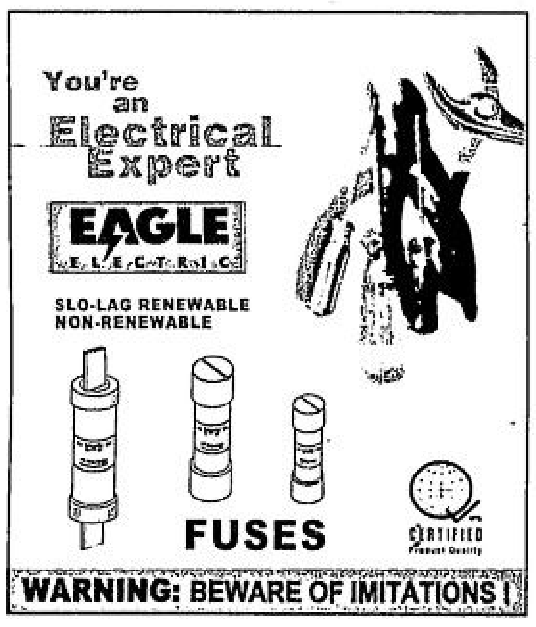
GMA to keynote developers' confab

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has been invited to keynote the National Developers Convention 2001 of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association slated on June 26-27 at ShangriLa Hotel, Makati City.

The annual convention of the country's premier group of housing producers and real estate builders has been the traditional forum for new policy and program developments for the real estate industry, according to SHDA national president Mariano D. Martinez.

Also incited are key Cabinet members as special guests or speakers, including Secretary Michael T. Defensor, presidential housing adviser and chair, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council; Secretaries Hernani A. Braganza of Agrarian Reform; Heherson Alvarez of Environment and Natural Resources; Leonardo Q. Montemayor of Agriculture; and Jose D. Lina of Local Government.

They are expected to discuss new developments and operational concerns of their respective departments as these affect housing development.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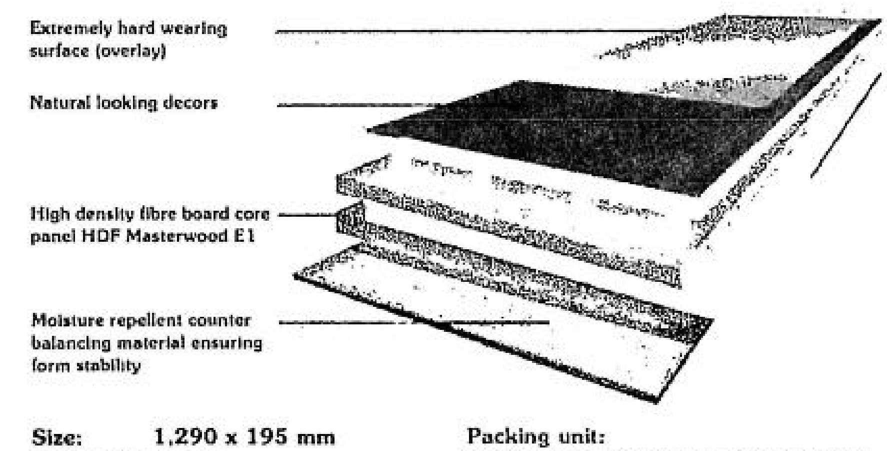
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Which abdominal exercise is the most intense?

You need a total approach to achieve flat abs

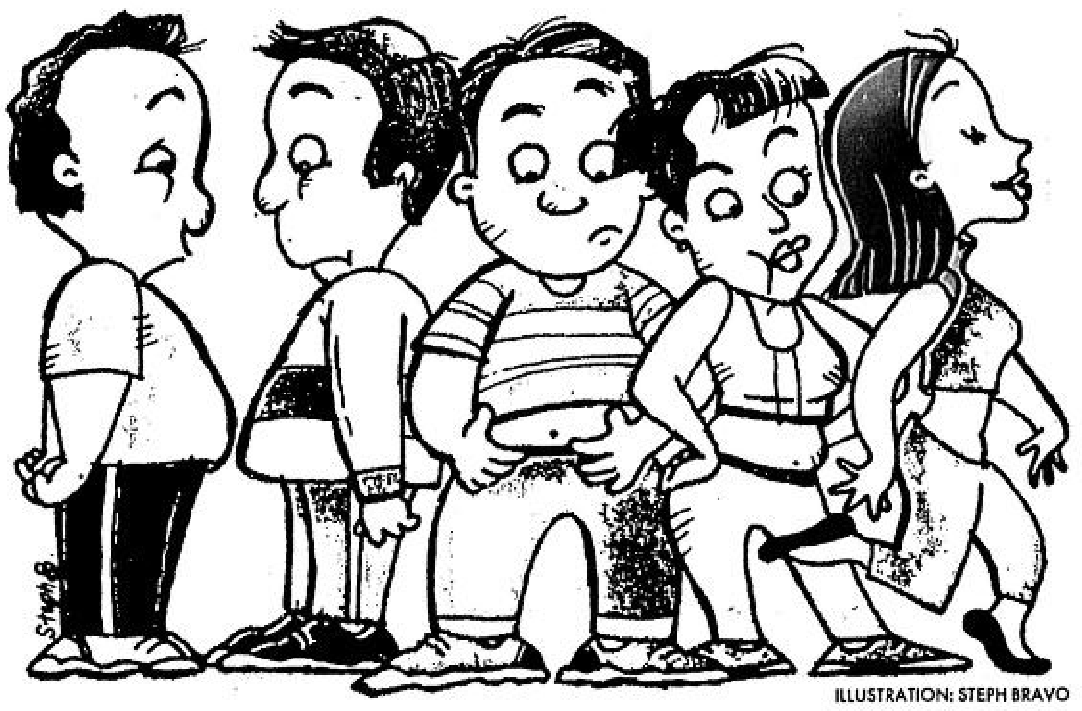

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

IT'S a myth that abdominal exercises are all you need to have a flat abdomen. Abdominal exercises, by themselves, do not burn enough calories to make a significant reduction in abdominal fat. Besides, studies have shown that you can't reduce the fat in a particular part of the body by only doing specific exercises for that area.

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

The truth is you need a total approach to achieve flat abs. This includes sensible eating, total body exercises like aerobics (walking, running, cycling, swimming, etc.) and weight training (for the whole body), good posture, abdominal exercises and the right genes.

Everyone has a different fat distribution pattern according to what they inherited from their parents. This means that some people store fat more readily in the hips, buttocks and thighs, while others store fat more easily in the arms and upper back, and still others store their fat in the abdominal and waist area.

What ab exercises do is strengthen your abdominal muscles, which helps to prevent lower back injury. Strong muscles also help make your abdomen look smaller by acting like a tight girdle to hold in the contents of your abdominal cavity—stomach, intestines, etc.

Since many people believe that abdominal exercises alone are what they need to get the body of their dreams, they can become obsessed with certain exercises. In our gym, I see the same clients always using the two Ab-Trainers we have. These are roller-type machines that have a curved metal frame and a neck support.

Ab-Trainers were originally designed to help people who had weak neck muscles and poor technique. However, some clients become so dependent on them they don't want to try any other kind of abdominal exercise no matter how many times we explain to them that they will get better results by "cross training" their muscles. Maybe the latest study done by the American Council on Exercise (ACE) will convince them.

Rating the exercises

ACE is a nonprofit organization that is considered by many to be the "watchdog" of the fitness industry because it commissions reputable universities to do research studies on the latest fitness trends and equipment. Recently, ACE asked Dr. Peter Francis of the San Diego State University to rate 13 abdominal exercises by using electromyography equipment, which measures how intensely a muscle is contracting.

I have had the pleasure of attending many

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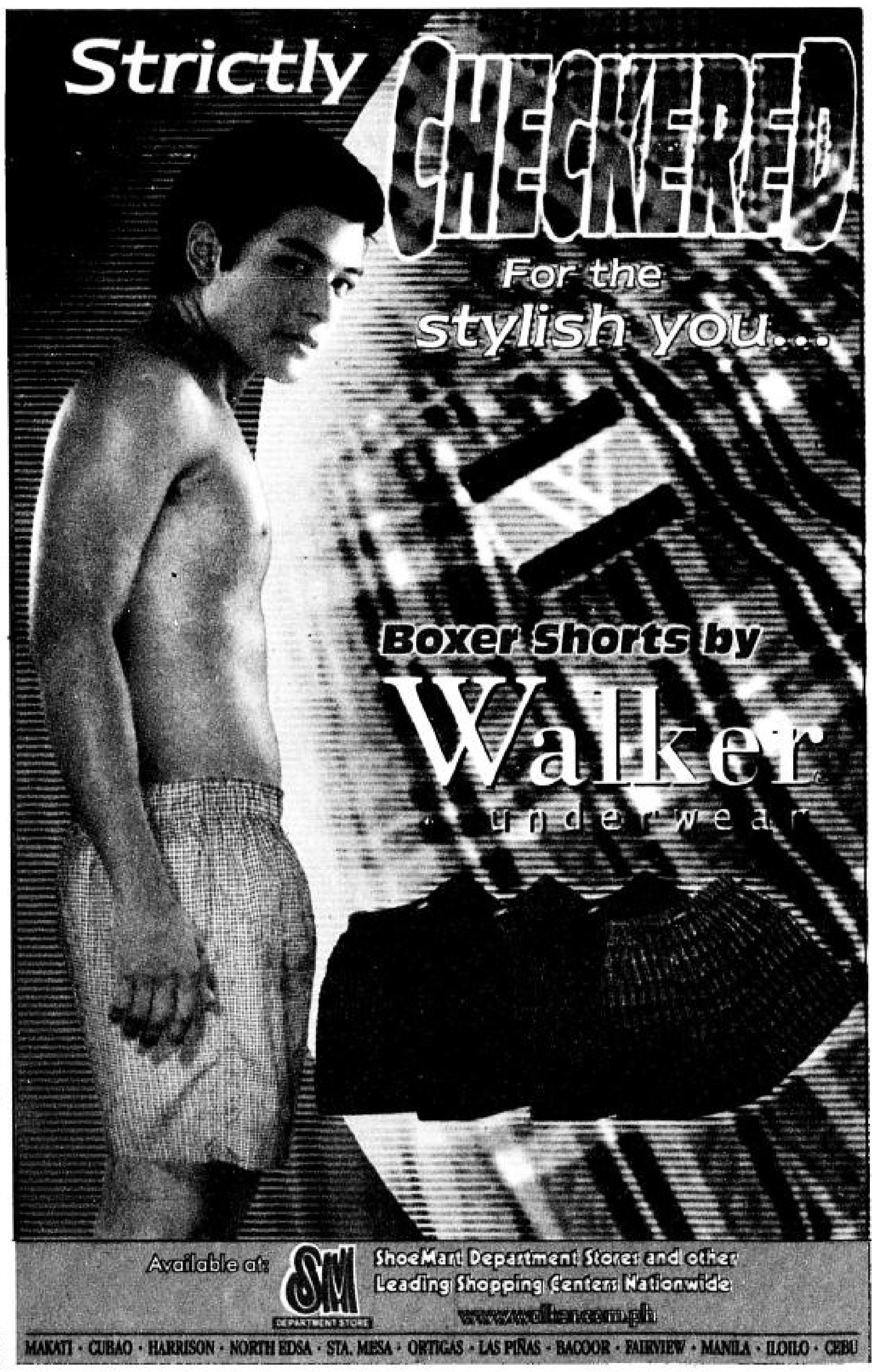
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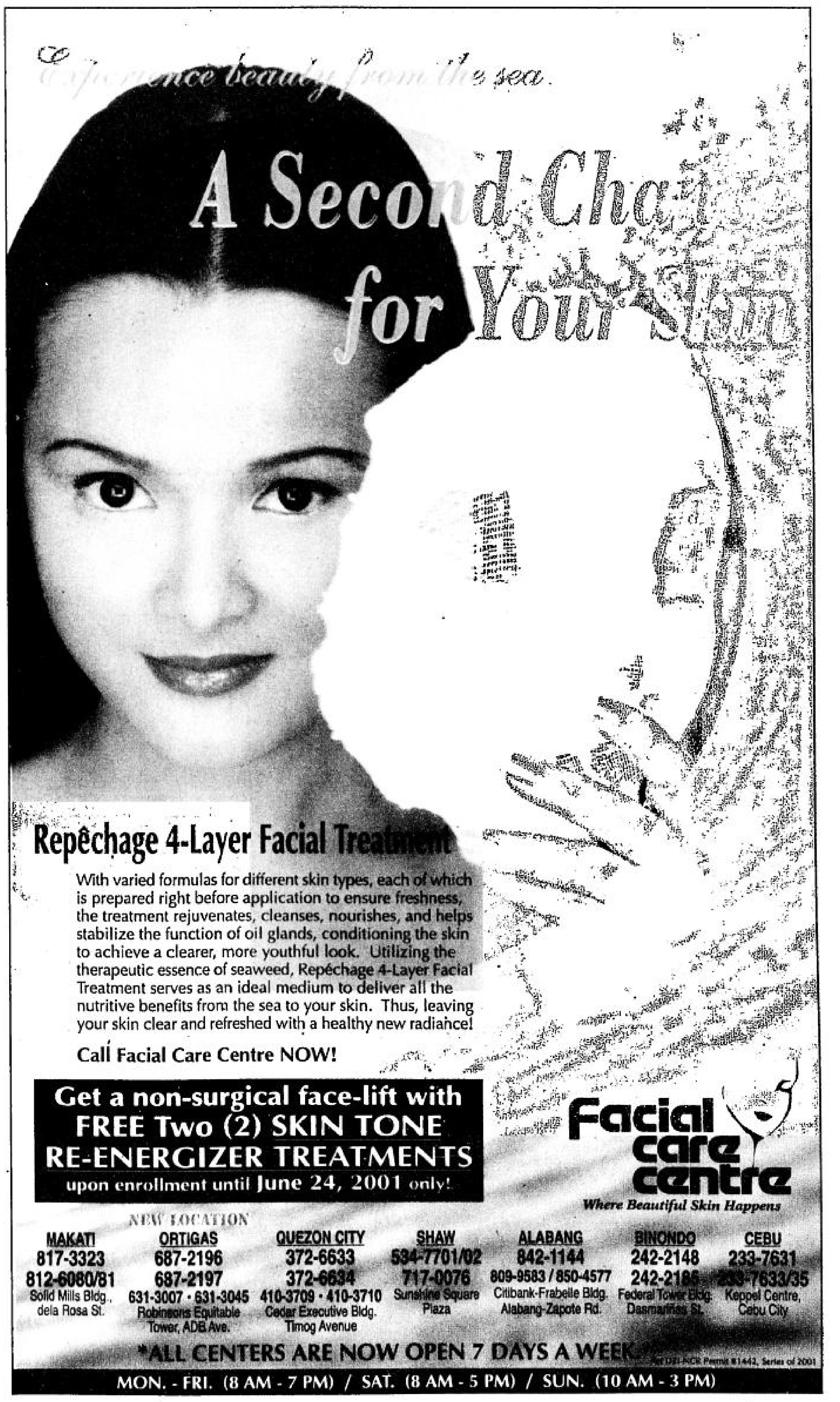
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Which abdominal exercise is the most intense?

(From page C1)

seminars given by Dr. Francis and his wife, Lorna, over the past 12 years. They are the scientists who did the original studies on the effectiveness and safety of step aerobics.

There are four abdominal muscles that form a multilayered multidirectional girdle around the trunk. The most obvious to the naked eye, the rectus abdominis or the "six-pack" muscle, runs vertically down the middle of your abdomen. It was this muscle that Francis focused on during the study. The traditional crunch or half sit-up was used as the standard upon which to compare the intensity of the other exercises.

Four of the exercises used abdominal equipment—captain's chair, stability ball, Torso Track and Ab-Rocker. In a previous study, ACE had already discovered that the AB-Roller (another brand name for a roller-type of machine) was only 5 percent more intense than doing a properly executed crunch.

The captain's chair or high chair as it is also called is a gym machine wherein the user can "hang" off the ground by resting on the forearms while lifting the legs. It was 212 percent more intense than a crunch.

Crunches done on a stability ball were 39 percent more intense. The Torso Track (a device you use while on your knees as you glide forward on your hands) was just slightly more intense than a regular crunch. The least intense was the Ab-Rocker (a chair type of machine), which had a sort of negative rating because it had only 21 percent of the intensity you normally get from a traditional crunch. Put another way, it was 79 percent less intense than a crunch. In fact, it was the least intense of all the 13 exercises evaluated.

The big winner was an exercise done without equipment. It was 250 percent more intense than a crunch. Francis called it the "bicycle maneuver." Pilates fans know it as the "single leg stretch." You can find it on my website under the name "low bicycle." You lie on your back, raise your knees over your hips, tighten your abs and then straighten one leg at a time at a 45-degree angle. Other top winners were the "vertical leg crunch" and the "reverse crunch." For a complete description of all the 13 exercises in the study, go to the ACE website http://www.acefitness.org.

The most intense exercises all involved using the abdominals as a stabilizing force to hold the trunk steady while the lower body did the movement. It makes sense that these types of exercises would be more intense than other kinds of crunches (even one done with both arms straight overhead) because the lower body weighs more than the upper body. The exception in the "winner's circle" was the stability ball, which was the third most intense exercise of the 13 exercises rated (first was the bicycle, second was the captain's chair, fourth was the vertical leg crunch, fifth was the reverse crunch). The reason is the ball is an unstable surface, which keeps moving underneath you. This makes the abdominal muscles contract hard just to keep you from falling off the ball.

Use this information wisely. This doesn't mean that the traditional crunch is not worth anything in strengthening your abs. It was just used as the benchmark or the standard against which to compare the intensity of the other exercises.

Specificity of training

Remember the principle of specificity of training, which states that you only get good at what you train for. If you have been used to doing the "bicycle maneuver," you would probably find doing a crunch on a stability ball a "belly shaking" experience even though the latter is a less intense exercise.

If you are not used to doing abdominal exercises, the bicycle maneuver is not exactly the place to start, especially if your lower back is also weak. Your abs will not be strong enough to hold the lower back in place because of the weight of the legs. Beginners can do these types of exercises, but they need special instructions to modify them (like bicycling at 90-degrees directly on top of the hips) for their fitness level. Advanced exercisers have many more challenging choices to choose from. It just so happened that these were the 13 exercises chosen for evaluation.

There are still many unanswered questions. What about decline crunches, kneeling cable crunches, selectorized abdominal machines, full sit-ups, etc.? What about the difference in intensity when doing an abdominal exercise with weights and without weights? *Abangan ang susunod...*

* * *

The Association of Fitness Professionals will hold a seminar on June 23 at Bahay ng Alumnae, UP Diliman, QC. Sessions for the general public are "Exercise Guidelines" and "Home Workout for the Elderly." Sessions for aerobic instructors are "Vertical Limit Step," "Pump," "Hip Hop" and "Dance Aerobics." Sessions for gym instructors are "Exercise Guidelines for Osteoporosis," "Week-by-Week Marathon Training," "Stretching for Tight People" and "Strength Training for Women." Call Lorna at 842-0567.

* * *

The Sports Medicine Association of the Phils. will hold its Basic (Module I) and Intermediate (Module II) Course in Sports Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas Medicine Building starting June 30. E-mail sportsmedphil @yahoo.com or call 521-9123 or 303-1142.

E-mail the author at fitness@ibm.net or write at PDI Lifestyle.

FOR THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Ideal for warm weather, Road Wraptor, Teva's first running sandals, which has the patented Teva Wraptor strapping system that secures the feet to the shoe. It also has Raised Toe Profile, Fusion Arch Shank Plate and Encapsulated Shoe Pad that offers superior foot protection. The lightweight and waterproof Sidewinder has a mesh drainage system and airflow panels to keep feet dry even after numerous dips in the water. The Cobra's waterproof nubuc and sticky but non-marring spider rubber offers wet terrain wearability. Teva footwear is available at sporting shops in SM, Robinsons and Glorietta malls and sports sections at major department stores.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Sidearm raise with rubber band

THIS strengthens the front and middle deltoids, or muscles at the front and side of the shoulders. People with narrow shoulders will benefit from this exercise.

Equipment:

You can purchase specially made exercise rubber bands at sporting good stores or make your own by buying rubber bands used for slingshots or pipe-tying at a hardware store or market. Always check your rubber band for tears before using it.

Exercise technique:

1. Stand with legs shoulder-width apart.
2. Hold both ends of the rubber band with arms straight down in front of your thighs.
3. Keep the left arm steady as the "anchor," tighten up abdominal muscles and pull the rubber band to shoulder level with the right arm. Your palm should be facing the floor.
4. Slowly return to the starting position.
5. Do the desired number of repetitions. Repeat on the other arm.

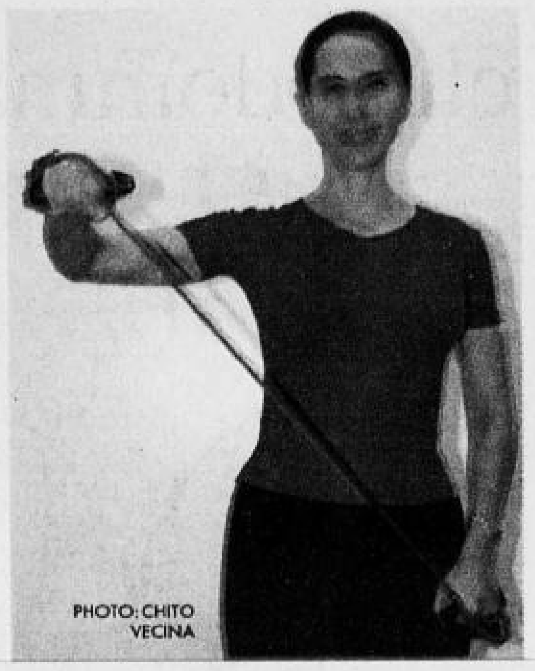


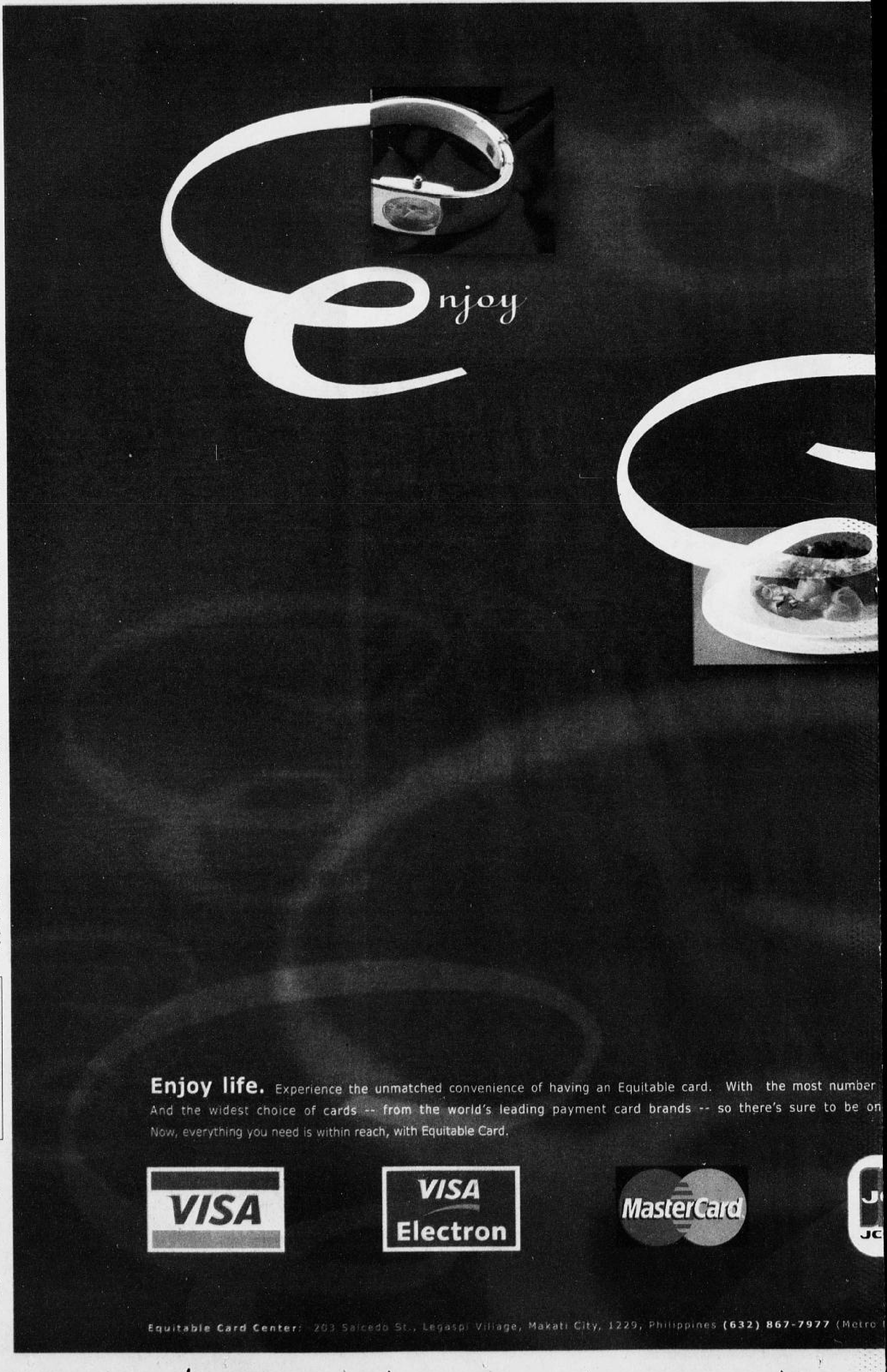
PHOTO: CHITO VECINA

Performance tips:

1. Keep your elbows slightly bent and your shoulder blades lightly squeezed together.
2. Pull the rubber band up to shoulder level by using the contraction of your shoulder muscle not by jerking on the band.
3. Exhale as you pull on the band and inhale as you return to the starting position.
4. When returning to the starting position, continue to maintain tension in the rubber band.
5. Avoid bringing the hand or elbow higher than the shoulder as this can cause injury to the shoulder joint.

Repetitions:

One set of eight to 12 repetitions. Do one to three sets if you want to.



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True psychic experience or insanity

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

HOW do we distinguish a true psychic experience from mental aberration or insanity?

Here's the sad story of a woman who was committed to a mental hospital by her husband because she was having some strange paranormal powers unrecognized by medical psychiatric science.

"I'm a mother of three and working in a hospital at present," she began. "I wrote to you because I want answers to questions that have been bothering me for the past three years. I hope that with your knowledge and expertise you can help me.

"It all started in 1998, when I attended a seminar in a five-star hotel in Makati. During the seminar, I noticed that my pen moved by itself when I touched it. So I picked it up and asked mentally who it was.

"Then I felt an external force that guided my hand to write whatever it wanted to tell me. In short, I was able to communicate with a spirit. Later, I was also able to communicate with the spirit of my deceased mother.

"There were several unseen beings I was able to communicate with, until a Supreme Energy intervened. It had no sex or gender, but I will use the male gender when referring to it for convenience.

"He told me he was the Energy of the Earth and of the Universe, that there were secrets of this energy that could not be revealed to anyone. There were many other things that this Supreme Energy told me that could not be understood by the ordinary rational mind.

"Because of these paranormal experiences, my husband had me confined in one of the mental hospitals in Manila for two weeks. I was diagnosed as suffering from schizophrenia.

"I know exactly what happened to me and I can clearly relate what the Supreme Energy told me. I cannot believe that I'm insane because if I were, how come I can perfectly function socially and relate to others very well, even though I wasn't taking any anti-psychotic drug?

"After my confinement, I could still hear those voices but I asked them not to bother me anymore. They stopped doing so until now. Doctors told me I was suffering from auditory hallucination.

"Please help me explain this. I don't know if I really had paranormal encounters or was suffering from transient-schizophrenia, as the doctors said. If this was a paranormal encounter, how do I know if this is a good spirit or really the Supreme Energy? I hope you yourself will not think I'm insane or having delusions of grandeur. Please reply as soon as possible."

The real thing

I am neither a psychiatrist nor a medical practitioner and, therefore, I cannot pretend to be able to tell you whether you are mentally ill or not. Furthermore, it is difficult to diagnose a client whom I have not seen personally. However, basing my analysis solely on your letter and assuming everything you said were factual and without any distortion or exaggeration, I would say what you experienced was a genuine paranormal encounter and did not necessarily mean you were hallucinating.

The main difference between a psychic or paranormal event and hallucination is that the former is verifiable by other psychics whereas the latter is not. In other words, psychic events exist in reality. Hallucination exists only in the person's mind with no objective correspondence between truth and reality.

The fact that, as you said, you were able to actually communicate with your dead mother, as well as with other entities, shows you were not hallucinating, especially if the information received from them could be verified and validated. You also said in your letter that you asked very logical questions from these entities and the answers given didn't come from your mind. The examples you gave showed they were beyond your normal comprehension or personal knowledge.

The American clinical psychologist Edith Fiore said in her book, "The Unquiet Dead," that about 50 percent of patients confined in mental asylums and hospitals in the United States were not really insane but possessed by some unseen powers. She developed a very effective technique she called "depossession" to drive those unwanted spirits out of a person's body.

Individuals possessed by entities do not necessarily act insane or mentally deranged. They are more likely to exhibit quiet, normal behavior and thinking. But there may be times when they will exhibit some extraordinary knowledge or power, surprising people around them. They may hear voices or see things. But these do not necessarily mean they are mentally deranged or insane.

Unfortunately, the Western psychiatric thinking does not consider psychic or paranormal experiences or powers to be within the range of what is considered normal behavior. So they lump all these with some form of schizophrenia, hallucination or delusion. The Bible, on the other hand, regards some of these powers, such as prophecy, speaking in tongues, discernment of spirits, healing, etc. to be "gifts of the Holy Spirit" and not insanity.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit my website at www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco for more details. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Student athletes honored

THE PUMA Student Athletes of the Year Program, which was launched in 1999, is Puma Hagemeyer Phils.' way of supporting the growth of young athletes and recognizing their untiring commitment to their sport and their academic performance.

Puma general manager Bing Paras said that Puma wants to be known not only for its quality products and prominent endorsers worldwide. It also wants to pursue an active role in improving the Filipino youth.

For 2001, Puma recognized 17 Student Athletes of the Year who excelled and displayed equal zeal in both sports and academics. Eleven of the 2001 SAYs—all males—come from La Salle Greehills.

Michael Gavino of the College of St. Benilde is an incoming freshman at the De la Salle University. His passion is basketball. He was recently chosen as one of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) Mythical Five for 2000. Michael is the elder of two siblings of Richard and Maria Olivia Gavino.

Jose Bartolome of La Salle Greenhills joins the new batch of chess pros this coming school year, also at De la Salle University. He remains a consistent top placer in chess tournaments in their village and in school.

Carlos Veloso has a Most Valuable Player Award for Football in NCAA 2000 and also runs for his school's track and field team. His brother Thomas is also a soccer player. They are sons of Maria Lourdes Veloso.

Kenneth Lachica emerged champion in the recent Philippine Junior Golf Federation Competition in Demecula, California. Kenneth is an incoming freshman at Thames International Business School at Greenhills. He is the eldest son of Raoul and Marites Lachica.

Adrian Derayunan is an asset to the College of St. Benilde's NCM Table Tennis Junior Division team. His proud parents are Dan and Rissa Derayunan.

Incoming DLSU freshman Jaime Nicole Gonzales has the knock-out kicks and at 16 has already earned two silver medals (NCAA '98 and '99 seasons) and a gold (NCAA 2000) for taekwondo. His parents are Cesar and Criselda Gonzalez.

Alfredo Nieves' performance in track and field won him the Athlete of the Year title in last years NCAA games. He is an incoming freshman at De la Salle University.

Josel Rosales was La Salle's top volleyball star in last year's NCM games. His father, businessman Francisco Rosales, says opportunities for Josel may even be brighter when he enters De la Salle University as college freshman.

Kevin Wong, son of businessman Francis G. Wong and real estate agent Romina Kate Wong, is a champion rock climber and finished second in the recent University of Asia & the Pacific sport climbing competition. He is an incoming freshman at University of Sto. Tomas.

The other winners are: Anthony Genuino (swimming) and Edsel James Vengco (track and field) of La Salle Greenhills; Lewis Alfred Tenorio (basketball) and Marvin Baldavia (basketball) of San Beda College; Kale Alvarez (football) of Claret School; Tristan Jason Tiongson (football) and Timothy Robert Robles (track and field) of Ateneo de Manila University; and Rogelio Ambe Lo Jr. (football) of South Ridge School.

Herbal stress relievers

PEOPLE who suffer from migraine, insomnia, heartburn, ulcers or other stress-related discomfort with herbal preparations may now find relief from Crataegus, an herbal extract known to be 50 times more intense than Vitamin E and 20 times stronger than Vitamin C when it comes to radical scavenging effects.

Another herbal extract, Gingko Biloba, contains powerful anti-oxidant properties that protect and nurture brain cells while improving memory.

It also helps prevent Alzheimer's disease. Garlic Oil can help those suffering from high blood and cholesterol lowering the lipids.

To calm the nerves, an extract called Melissa Offinales relieves nervous agitation and insomnia. It also contains antibacterial and antiviral properties.

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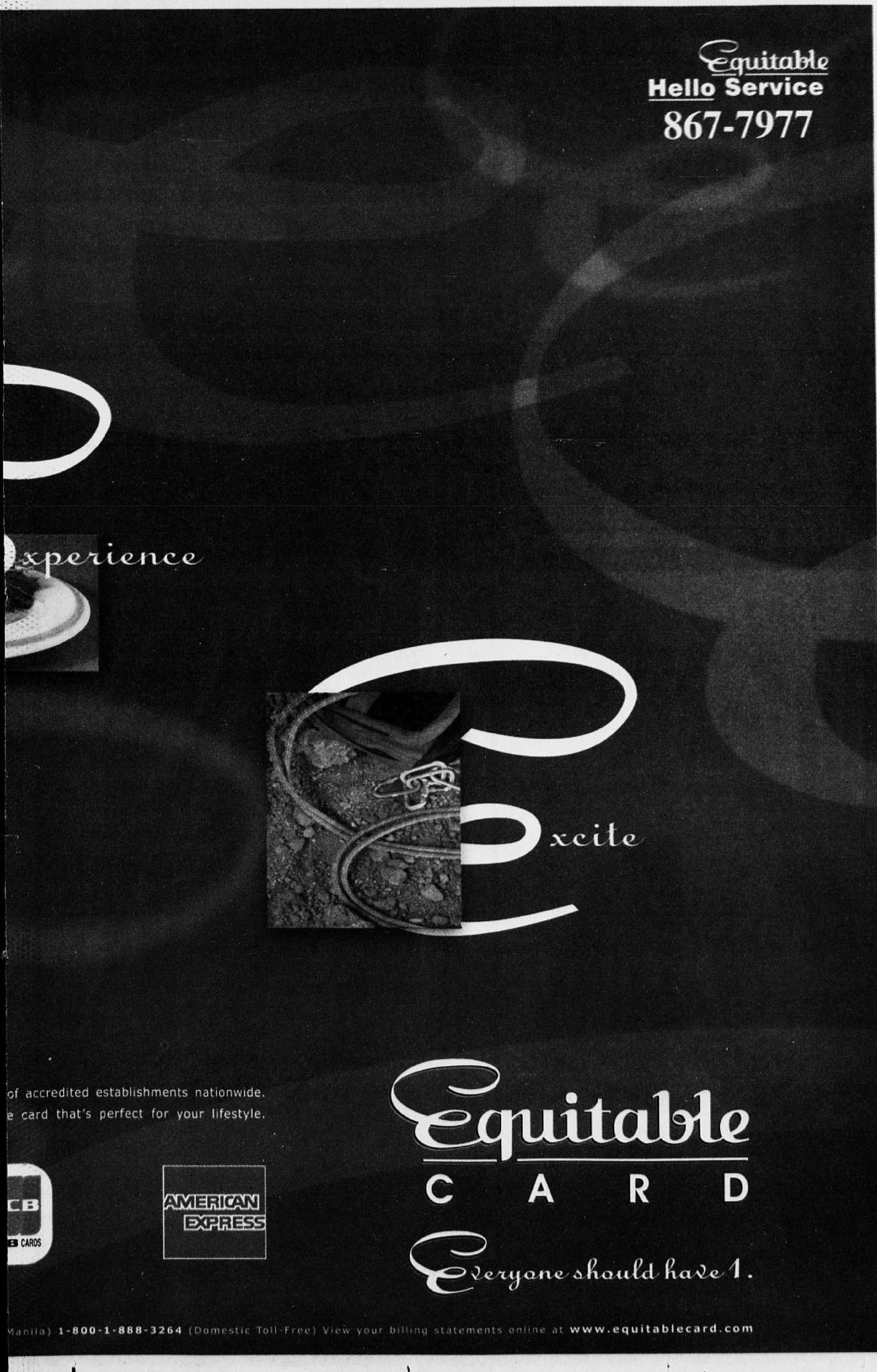
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Hegren Utopia (HUP) recently unveiled its latest line of functional and protective backpacks, handbags, briefcases and travel bags. Made of water-resistant denier nylon and packed with reflector logos for added visibility, the HUPs are equipped with metallic rubber nylon zippers with stoppers. Available at major department stores, Bratpack boutiques and The Travel Club stores at the malls.

RUNAWAY WINNER

Saucony, the company that has been making running shoes since 1898, brought back its back-to-school promo and gave away a free sports cap for every purchase of Saucony footwear. Saucony is available at all Royal Sporting House outlets, The Shoe Shop, Olympic Village, Hall of Fame, Olympic World, Olympic Gold and Sportmart Duty Free.

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Meet your MEDICard Team

MEDICard's Physiatrist at the Quezon City Medical Center is **Dr. Victoria Morales.** Dr. Morales is a graduate of Medicine from the University of Santo Tomas and later received her training in Rehabilitation Medicine from the Veterans Memorial Hospital. Dr. Morales is a mother of two and is currently carrying their third child due this month. She is married to Dr. Eric Morales, an Orthopedic Surgeon. Her free time is spent usually with the family, but loves to play badminton and volleyball. For consultations, you may visit her at QCMC during Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 to 3:30 PM.

Dr. Ephraim Neal Orteza is MEDICard's Pediatrician and the current Hospital Administrator of Olivarez General Hospital in Parañaque City. Dr. Orteza is a graduate of Medicine from the UERM and specialized in Pediatrics at the Lincoln Hospital in New York City. He also holds a Master's degree in Hospital Administration from Ateneo. Dr. Orteza is married to Dr. Imelda Olivarez-Orteza, also a pediatrician, and has been blessed with 4 wonderful children, the eldest of which, Melissa, is the current National Tennis Champion for 12 years old and below division. His free time is spent with the family playing tennis, watching plays, musicals and movies. For consultations, you may visit Dr. Orteza at the Olivarez Hospital during Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9AM to 5 PM and during Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9AM to 12 noon.

Dr. Caridad E. Molino is MEDICard's accredited specialist at the San Juan De Dios Hospital. Dr. Caridad is an OB-Gynecologist with sub-specialty in Colposcopy and has been practicing her trade for over 16 years now. She is a current member of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society, Philippine Society of Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology and the Perinatal Association of the Philippines. You may visit Dr. Molino at San Juan De Dios during Mondays and Thursdays, 10AM to 3PM and on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10AM to 5PM.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. **BE HEARD AND BE READ.** You can write **DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA** at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For membership inquiries, please call 810-2399, and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. **TEXT MEDICard for your queries:** 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. ***Log on to www.medicardphils.com***

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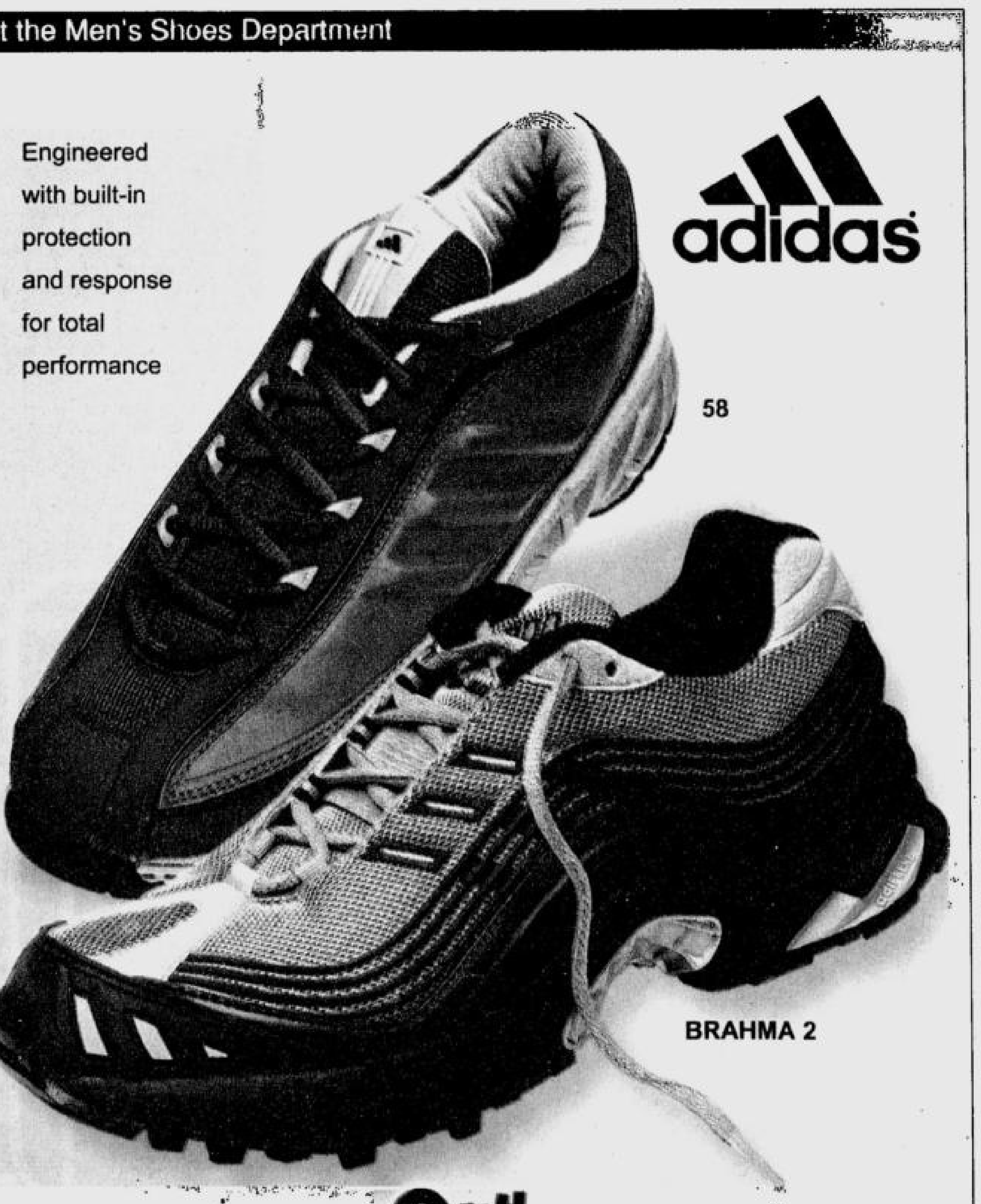

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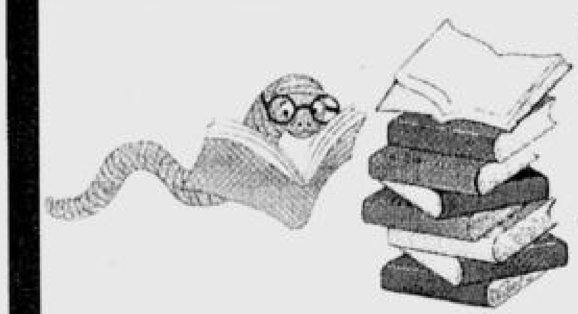

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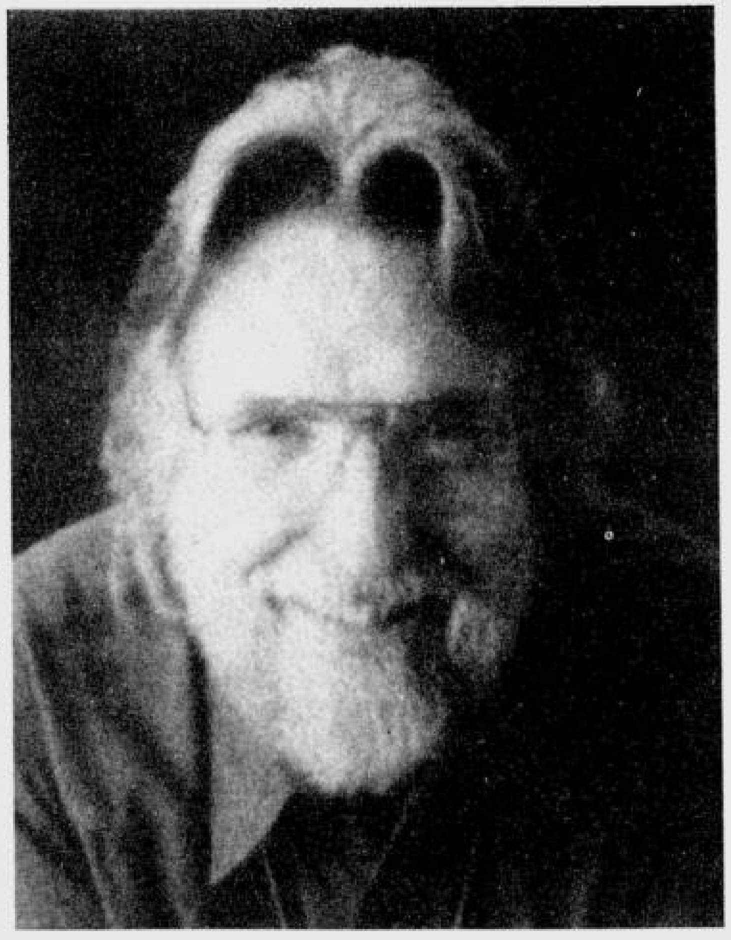

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LIFESTYLE

Fitness

Musings on the health of men

Strength and physical prowess have always been important to men, but even a fat guy downing jumbo cheeseburgers believes he has both

By Gerry Lirio

THERE was some kind of disbelief on my part when I received word that my father was rushed to the hospital past midnight sometime in March. Mild stroke, I was told.

At 75, he was a healthy man, I thought, especially after he quit smoking 20 years ago. He was energetic, even aggressive, for someone his age.

He would regularly bike around the neighborhood at dawn and afterward engage anyone at the neighborhood patio in a heated debate on a wide range of subjects,

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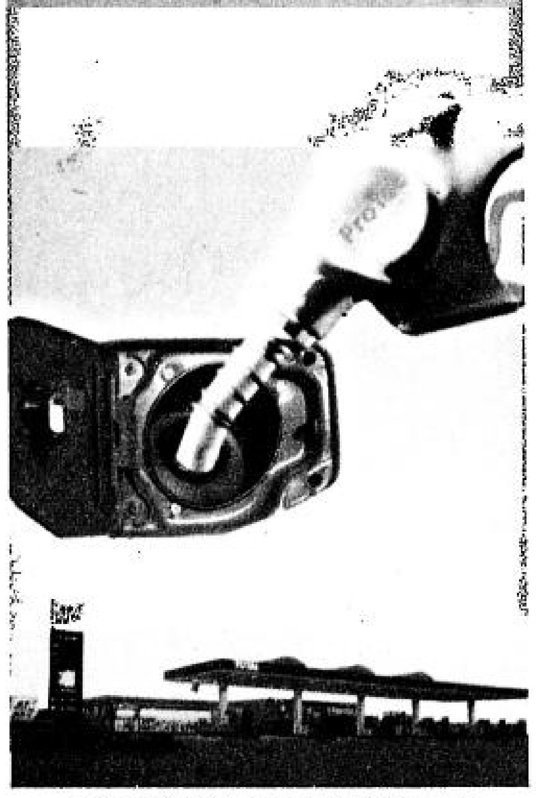

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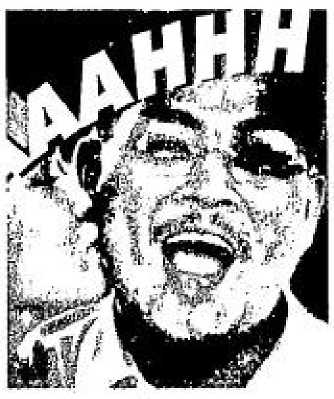

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Possibly look for a specialist like Linus Santo Tomas, M.D., a graduate of pulmonary and critical care medicine from the Medical College of Wisconsin, USA, and now a consultant at St. Luke's Medical Center. For certain cases, he can order a screen test for his patients, the Pulmonary Function Test or PFT, which uses a Plethysmograph.

Because it is a very expensive equipment, only a few hospitals, among them St. Luke's, have the PFT, which graphs the dynamics of breathing and detects the development of airway obstruction and measures lung volumes in less than 30 minutes. A patient can get the result in the same day. It detects asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis and other related diseases.

The symptoms of lung disease, especially at the onset, are variable and nonspecific. That is why it is wise to watch out for the following: cough, which may be caused by an infection or a malignant disease from a nearby organ; shortness at breath (dyspnea); chest pain, most often associated with heart disease but likewise caused by lung diseases like pneumonia; or wheezing in the chest caused by airway obstruction such as in asthma. Also: swelling of the lymph nodes, particularly above the collarbone, may indicate cancer within the chest; or blood in the sputum (hemoptysis), which can indicate an infection, inflammation, capillary damage or tumor and is also a classic sign of TB of the lungs. Other symptoms include: general feeling of malaise, unusual fatigue; loss of appetite, loss of weight, dislike of physical activity, general psychological depression, mild indigestion and headaches.

Leading cause of death

Tuberculosis remains one of the five leading causes of death in the Philippines. According to Santo Tomas, the common tests performed on patients suspected of lung disease, particularly TB, are chest X-ray; a sputum examination called Acid Fast Bacilli (AFB), which can be done even in the provinces, and a test to grow the TB bacteria. The Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), which uses new technology to hasten diagnosis by amplifying the genetic material, is also available at St. Luke's. A CT scan is not a routine test for TB, but may be warranted. The tuberculin skin test involves injecting the patient with a protein derivative, which may raise a portion of the skin, indicating the person is positive for being infected with the tubercle bacilli.

Those who register positive but do not have the disease actively may undergo a prophylactic treatment, which may take two to 12 months of drug therapy.

The BCG vaccine can be given to babies at birth to 3 months of age. It does not totally eradicate the possibility of contracting TB, but decreases the risk of TB complications such as TB meningitis. The latter may read to headaches, fever, disorientation, facial paralysis and in extreme cases, a comatose condition.

A common problem with TB is patient noncompliance. To avoid this, patients sometimes must undergo directly observed therapy where some one of authority who they trust can watch them religiously finish their dosage. Otherwise, patients are encouraging the mutation of the TB bacteria inside their bodies into something more deadly and difficult to control.

Respiratory complications are now easily detected by the pulmonary function test but watch out for other signs

Supervision is necessary to monitor clinical response compliance and side effects. In most newly diagnosed cases six months to a year of antibiotic therapy is recommended, coupled with good general care, good food and plenty of rest.

Asthma and other lung diseases

Dr. Santo Tomas also attends to allergy cases which involve the lungs such as asthma. This is a condition where the airways are hypersensitive, hyperactive and inflamed. Asthma can kill and death can come very quickly. It is triggered by allergens inhaled or eaten, including chemicals and medication. Usually an allergologist, an allergy expert can apply a skin test to identify very marked allergic reactions.

One form of asthma occurs in childhood and is triggered by pollens, mold spores, animals, insects, including cockroaches and dust mites. Another form can occur in any age and may be caused by infections. Hay fever, a common seasonal condition caused by allergy to grasses and pollens, is characterized by conjunctival infection and edema of the nasal mucosa leading to sneezing attacks. Severe forms of hay fever become associated with asthma.

Other lung diseases are caused by viral infection and exposure to irritant gases and cigarette smoke.

Acute bronchitis usually occurs because of a viral infection but maybe complicated by a bacterial infection. On the other hand, respiratory bronchiolitis chronic bronchitis and emphysema are believed to be related to cigarette smoking.

Occupational lung diseases are contracted due to exposure to certain substances in one's line of work such as silicosis from sandblasting, black lung from coal dust far coalworkers and asbestosis, from the worldwide use of asbestos as an insulating material during World War II.

Tobacco smoke and environmental pollutants have also been associated with cancer. While cancer is a multispecialty disease requiring the expertise of different doctors, Dr. Santo Tomas is often consulted when the lungs are involved.

New faces at skating competition

THE PUBLIC got a chance to see a new batch of skaters, many of them participants in the SM-Milo Summer clinics, at the recent SM ISI-Asia Summerskate 2001 competition.

More than 190 skaters participated in the two-day competition at the SM Megamall and SM Southmall Ice Skating Rinks Standouts. Highest pointers were Susanna Quibol, 17, and Paolo de Leon, 17, in the Freestyle Level; and Francesca Dominique Recasata, 8, and Shaun Isaiah Lam, 11, in the Basic Level.

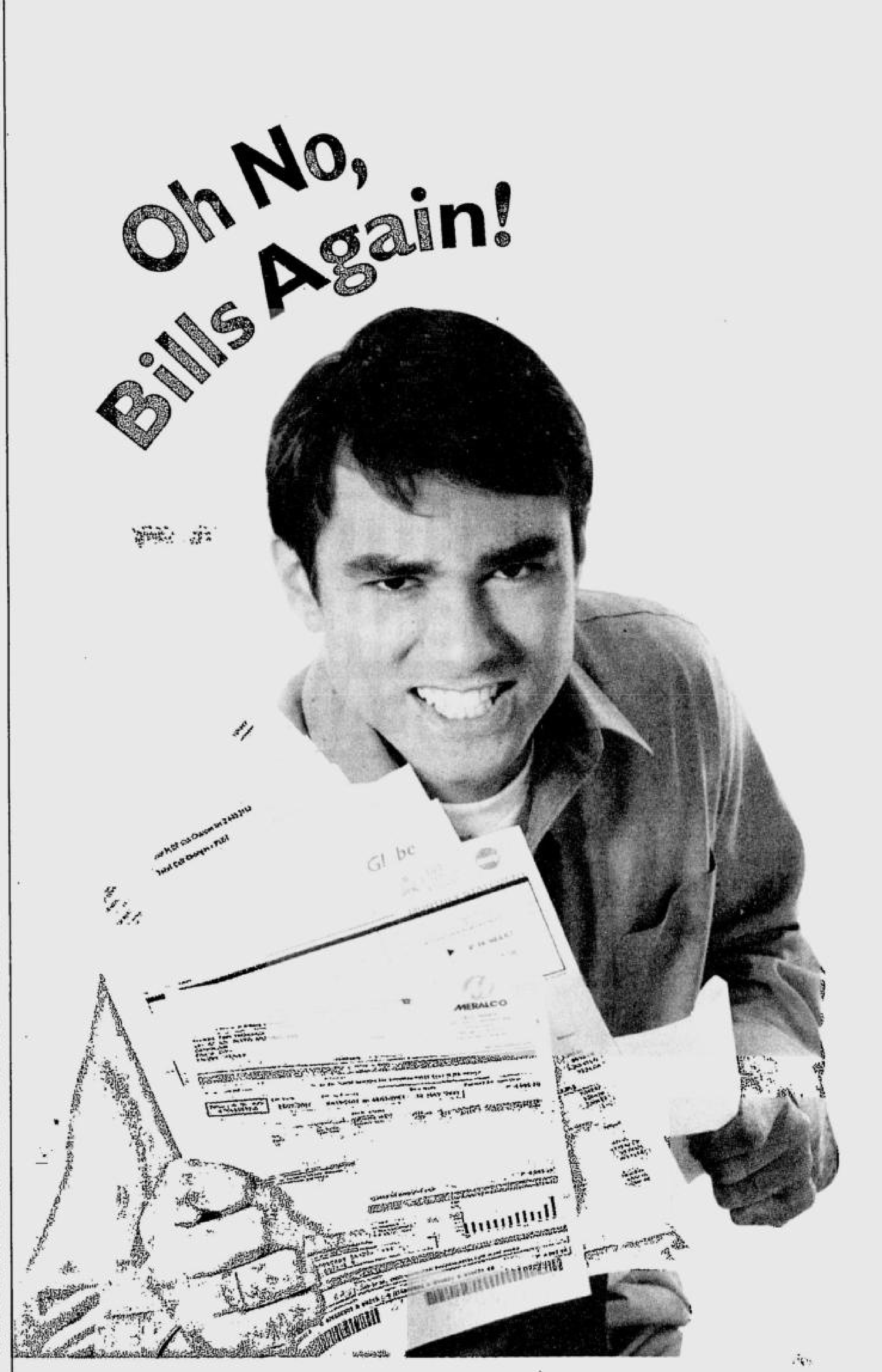
John Solanzo, 12, and Nicole Natasha Tan, 11, received the Most Promising Skater Award, while Adelle Feliciano, 18, was named the Most Artistic Skater.

Over 80 enrollees of the SM-Milo Ice Skating summer clinics participated in the competition.

The SM ISI-Asia Summerskate 2001 competition was held with the Ice Skating Institute-Asia and the Ice Skating Union of the Philippines.

GOLD medalist Sharlita Amaquin dazzles in her entry to the pre-alpha level

GOLD medalist Eingel Beatrice Ferrer shows her winning form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Musings on the health of men

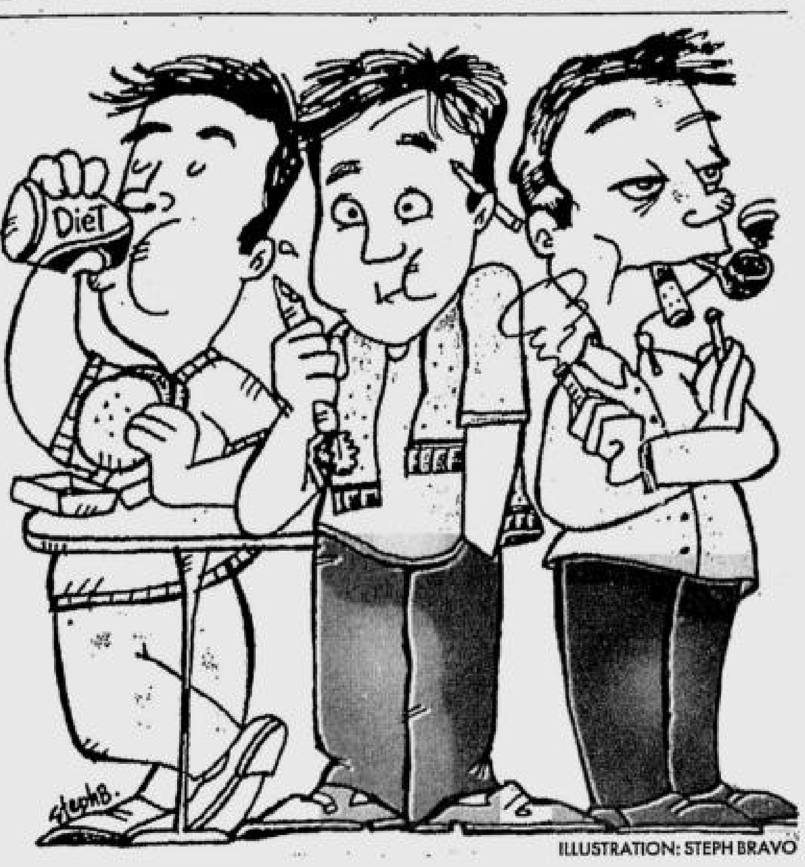

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

(From page D1)

ranging from the Marcos wealth to local politics to INQUIRER headlines.

And my father happened to be a passionate man in articulating his views. He'd get you to agree with him—by hook or by crook. He reminded me of Al Pacino in the movie "Scent of a Woman" where he played a blind, overbearing retired soldier.

Things changed though after my father was hospitalized. He came home more than a week later in a wheelchair. Instead of seeing Al Pacino in him, I saw Steve McQueen walking weak and helpless after he was let out of years of solitary confinement in the movie "Papillon."

My father's health is a wake-up call for all of us in the family, but most especially to me, who in a few years time, will turn 40. Getting old is like having a time bomb in one's body. Poor health can trigger the explosion. When, no one really knows. But anyone who has so much energy doing and loving one's job never thinks of slowing down. Not yet. Probably not even after he turns 40. Not even if some parts of his body are aching. Or showing signs of aging.

A new thing

I guess that is the way with men. We go along blithely unconcerned about our well-being, until something shocking happens. Health consciousness, according to an American male writer in a vanity magazine, was a new thing for the guys until a few years back.

The average man, he said, would only exercise if he is either a member of the military or an athlete gearing for a competition.

Strength and physical prowess have always been important to men, but even a fat guy downing jumbo cheeseburgers believes he has both.

Indeed, there's something pathetic about men who worry that their steaks contain monosodium glutamate and too much fat, or skip dinner when everybody else in the office is having fun eating. It is even more pathetic to watch an older woman eat everything she can, but orders diet coke to cap her dinner, or another woman who refuses to take anything fatty but smokes heavily.

Being health-conscious, the American writer added, means following the dictums of eating your vegetables, exercising and enjoying all things in moderation. It's akin to listening closely to one's mother—every day.

But as Red Foxx once said: "The main trouble with some medical advice designed to make a man live longer these days is that he usually has to cut out on all things that make him want to live longer in the first place."

The American writer said that high stress, lousy food and sedentary habits can kill us before our time. We know that unless we act, we'll end up prematurely on the operating table, or in the grave.

But men in their prime need better reasons to take a break from their jobs to find time to exercise and slow down. Better than dancing with a pack of aerobic buffs. Could the reason be one's family? Loved ones? Or one's own sense of well-being? The mirror has always been a great neutralizing force. A man's mirror shows less mercy than his peers.

When former INQUIRER reporter Lindablue Romero came home for a visit from the United States sometime in February, she invited us to take a break and travel to the countryside: "All work and no play makes one fat. Or, you'll die from your excessive love for the INQUIRER."

Another friend, commercial model-turned-businessman Pablo'del Rosario, over dinner with his wife and children at their house on New Year' eve exclaimed, " Gerry, you're so fat! What happened to you? *Ang laki-laki ng tiyan mo. Hindi ka ba nahihiya?*" Of course, I turned red and fidgety. Do I really look like I have feasted on so much? For so long? With so little restraint?

Pablo went on to point out a direct relationship between how good you look and how healthy you are, like I didn't know all that. Men can find all kinds of advantages to keeping up appearance through proper nutrition and exercise that have nothing to do with the fact that it's healthy.

Hanging on to their vanishing youth, for instance. Tall and handsome, Pablo is a faithful husband but even a happily married guy like him enjoys being able to turn a younger woman's head once in a while. Somehow there's some pleasure in knowing that you look good because you feel good. Or you feel good because you look good.

That one is as young as he feels is no longer just a medical cliché. It is a fact. Indeed, life is what we make it, particularly in matters pertaining to our health. To slow down is to relax and enjoy what life has to offer each day.

I'm now on the second week of a month-long vacation. I have started doing a little biking and have privately avoided high-cholesterol food. I don't drink. I don't smoke. Eventually, every man has to come to terms with health facts and decide whether or not to take care of his own body. I think I've just done that.

I see my father more often these days. He goes to a physical therapist at least once a week. He is dying to go back to his daily biking.

I was a little bit confused, albeit secretly, when I realized that he has ceased looking like Steve McQueen. He now sounds like Al Pacino again. My father is slowly recovering.

Getting the right gear for traveling

EVERY seasoned traveler knows that a great travel experience comes from the right preparation, knowledge of the destination and, of course, adequate and proper travel equipment. There is no better place for getting the right gear than The Travel Club, which now has 10 branches.

The store features a wide selection of quality travel equipment carrying the world's favorite brands. Check out any of The Travel Club branches at Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Mall, SM North Edsa, SM Megamall, SM Manila, SM City Cebu, SM Iloilo, Harrison Plaza, Ayala Center Cebu, Ayala Center Makati and Alabang Town Center.

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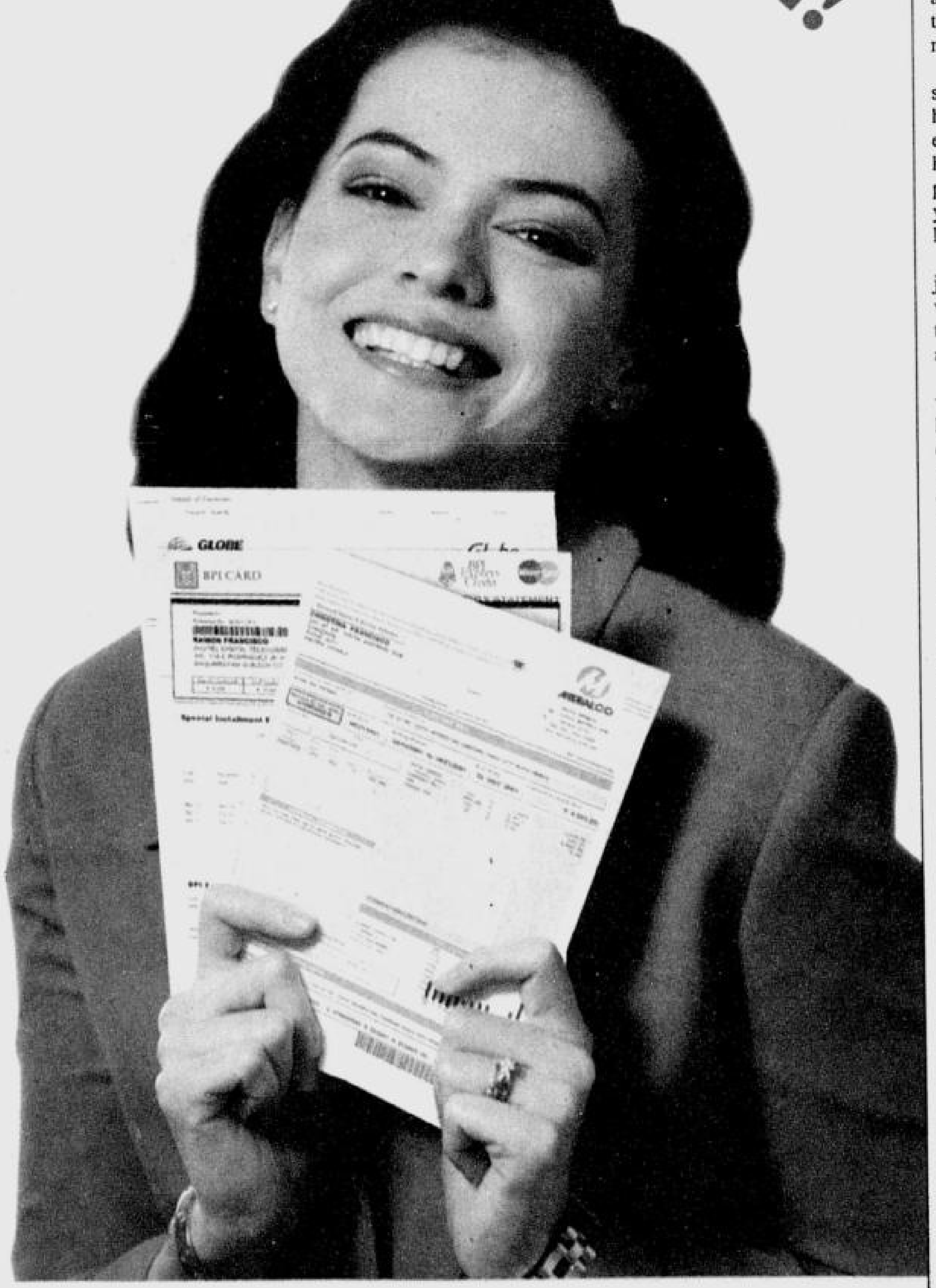

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